



THE INDEPENDENT

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NEWS PAGE 7

THE BIGGEST
ART THEFT IN
THE WORLD

THE TABLOID

COMPREHENSIVE
RELIEF: ESCAPING
PUBLIC SCHOOL

THE TABLOID

WHY JEAN M...
IS STILL THE
DRESS TO BL...

The Queen bows to her subjects

Michael Streeter

The clamour

and the response

The Queen will today broadcast to the nation her grief over the loss of Diana, Princess of Wales, as the Royal Family bowed to public criticism over their behaviour since Sunday's tragic deaths.

Although Palace officials insisted that the decision for the Queen to appear on television was one of many options "under discussion" all week, it came just hours after a round of criticism from the public and politicians via the media about their absence from the scenes of deep mourning at London palaces.

On an extraordinary day, the Palace responded to the criticisms made of it one by one, an apparent admission of the its slowness to react to the outpouring of national grief. At the same time, the House of Windsor showed how stung it was in a statement issued by the Queen's press secretary Geoffrey Crawford. He said on television: "The Royal Family have been hurt by suggestions that they are indifferent to the country's sorrow at the tragic death of the Princess of Wales."

The concessions came thick and fast. In breach with Royal precedent, it was announced that tomorrow the Union flag will fly from Buckingham Palace at half mast after the Queen has left for the funeral service at Westminster Abbey. This meets the growing chorus of demands from many ordinary people who have complained that there has been no flag at all. Traditionally, only the Royal Standard is flown - and then only when the Queen is resident.

Later, Prince Charles appeared outside Balmoral with William and Harry, as they inspected floral tributes left by public, an apparent reaction to allegations of aloofness aimed at the family. As the young princes read the messages, the Queen stood apart from the rest of the royal party.

Meanwhile, Princes Andrew and Edward flew to London yesterday and staged a walkabout among mourners, countering complaints that the Royals have remained bunkered inside their Balmoral retreat while outside the nation grieves.

The Queen has also abandoned plans to take the Royal Train overnight from Balmoral and fly to London today to prepare her broadcast - in time for the evening news bulletins - and then stay at Buckingham Palace. It is possible she could then pay her respects at Diana's coffin in the Royal Chapel and walk among the many mourners queuing at St James's Palace to sign books of condolence.

The establishment moved quickly yesterday to back the Palace, an acknowledgement that the raw emotion of the past days has threatened to cause lasting damage to the monarchy. But even the choice of Mr Blair's phrase of Diana as the "people's princess" raised the question in some people's mind of what this said about the status of the other Royals in the public's affections.

A sign of the massive grief is the prediction last night by Scotland Yard that up to six mil-

lion people will crowd into central London for the funeral.

There was also surprise in some quarters that no member of the Royal Family will take an active part in Diana's funeral service at Westminster Abbey, details of which were released yesterday.

The tribute will be read by her brother, Earl Spencer, and Diana's sisters will each read poems, while the Prime Minister will give a reading from the bible. The choice of participants - which came after "discussions" between the two families - clearly reflects a bias towards Diana as a Spencer and ambassador for Britain rather than a royal.

Diana 1961-1997

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A concerted attempt to rally behind the Windsors came yesterday as politicians and church leaders urged the end of public criticism.

Conservative leader William Hague said: "Please, let us all come together now and stop converting our grief into criticism of the Royal Family. Saturday's funeral should be a dignified, united expression of national sorrow." Tony Blair has already made public his support for Prince Charles and others in the family.

In a joint statement, the Archbishop of Canterbury and York said: "We believe this is a time for us all to come together - in our grief, in thanks for Diana's life and in sympathy with those most closely affected by this tragedy."

A Lambeth Palace spokeswoman said one of the reasons for the statement was that "the archbishops are urging that this is a time for unity, as they have thought that the tendency to criticise the Royal Family is not helpful for the Princes William and Harry at this sad time."

Reaction to the Royal news was mixed among mourners outside St James's Palace. Legal secretary Mavis Dady, from London, said: "I feel she's been pushed into making a statement. John Bradley, from Devon, said: 'It's about time. In my opinion, it's a disgrace they've kept quiet for so long.'"

Andrea Lean, from Liverpool, said: "I'm glad I just wonder why it taken them so long. They must know how people feel."

A Palace spokesman denied any suggestion of a "knee-jerk" reaction by the Royal Family.



In their first public appearance since Sunday, Prince Harry, Prince William, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Queen inspect floral tributes when they attended a special service for Diana, Princess of Wales, at Grange church, near Balmoral, yesterday afternoon. Photograph: Derek Ironsides

Funeral rebuff for the tabloid editors

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

Earl Spencer, the Princess of Wales's brother, has taken his revenge on the tabloid newspapers by blaming for his sister's death by barring their editors from Saturday's funeral.

The editors of the tabloid press were originally invited along with the editors of broadsheet newspapers by the Lord Chancellor's office. Once he learnt of the invitations, Lord Spencer called the tabloid editors personally to tell them they were no longer welcome.

Buckingham Palace refused to comment on the withdrawn

invites but passed inquiries on to Earl Spencer's home at Althorp, saying that he was in control of who attends.

In a prepared statement, a spokeswoman for Lord Spencer said: "Lord Spencer has personally asked the tabloid editors not to come, because he and his sisters, particularly Diana, would not have wished them to be there. They have kindly agreed to the request, although broadsheet and regional papers are welcome."

Immediately he heard of his sister's death, Earl Spencer accused every editor who had bought paparazzi pictures of his sister of having "blood on their

hands". He himself has had a long-running battle with the tabloids over their intrusion into his privacy and moved to South Africa to escape their attention.

He was especially angered when one newspaper printed photographs taken with a long lens of his then wife when she was being treated for an eating disorder in a private clinic.

Stuart Higgins, editor of the Sun, said yesterday that he had been surprised and honoured to have been invited to the funeral, but was happy to respect the Earl's wishes that he not attend as a "matter of respect" to the Princess.

Eight die in Jerusalem suicide bombing

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Suicide bombers struck in Jerusalem again yesterday killing themselves and five other people, and wounding more than 100 as they set in pavement cafes and shopped in a pedestrian street in the city centre.

Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, claimed in a fax to the French news agency AFP that its military wing, the Izzadine al-Qassem brigades, had carried out the attack. It said it

wanted the release of all its members imprisoned by Israel by 14 December.

Three suicide bombers blew themselves up, one after another, near the Alara cafe in Ben Yehuda, a street always crowded at mid-afternoon.

I was driving down King George Street, which passes the end of Ben Yehuda, as the first explosions went off. Almost immediately the less seriously hurt appeared, looking shocked and dabbing at wounds.

A few minutes later police

and soldiers carried the wounded from the scene and laid them on the pavement. Many were half-naked, their clothes torn off by the force of the blast. Heavily armed paratroopers ripped open rubbish bins in case one contained a fourth bomb.

The police said the explosives used seemed to be the same type as those used in an attack which killed 15 people in a food market, 300 yards away from Ben Yehuda on 30 July.

The bombs underline the fact that relations between

Palestinians and Israelis are more hostile than at any time since the Oslo accords were signed in 1993.

They also deepen the sense of crisis in the lead-up to the visit to Israel next week by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. In Washington, President Bill Clinton said: "It is clear the perpetrators of this attack intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself."

He said Ms Albright would go ahead with her planned

Middle East tour. He again called on Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to "do all it can to create an environment that leaves no doubt that terror will not be tolerated".

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, returned yesterday to Jerusalem to convene his security cabinet. He will be under pressure to re-enter the autonomous Palestinian enclaves to arrest Hamas members. This is likely to be resisted by the Israeli army on the grounds that it would cause

heavy fighting and be unlikely to stop suicide bombers.

Israel has reimposed a total closure on Gaza and the occupied territories. This had begun to be lifted this week after the last bombing.

Ahmed Abdel Rahman, the secretary of Mr Arafat's cabinet, yesterday denounced the explosions. "The Palestinian people are against terrorism against civilians... and we will investigate to see who is behind it," he said.

Dealing in death, page 11

"LUMET IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FILMMAKERS OF OUR TIME."

"A GRIPPING THRILLER."

Andy Garcia Richard Dreyfuss
Lena Olin Ian Holm

in a cast of nine million people
is there room for one damned mouse?

NIGHT FALLS
on Manhattan

—STARTS TODAY—

AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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Education doubt
The Government's emphasis on education will not lead to the country's economic recovery, according to a wide-ranging study. Page 8

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significant shorts

Police make arrests over fatal Brecon blast

Police investigating an explosion at a house in Brecon on Monday night which killed one man and seriously injured another, made a number of arrests yesterday.

A Dyfed-Powys police spokesman said: "Those arrested all have close associations with the Brecon area." He declined to say how many were being questioned at police stations in the force area.

Forensic experts were continuing to sift through the wreckage of the house in Dorglas, an estate about 400 yards from Brecon Barracks, the headquarters of the Army in Wales. On Wednesday police discovered a number of 8oz sticks of plastic explosive in another house about a mile from the scene of the explosion. The material, PE4, is manufactured by Royal Ordnance for use by the armed services. Detective Chief Superintendent Jeff Thomas, head of Dyfed-Powys CID, said the explosion which wrecked the house in Dorglas had been caused by about 1lb of explosives. Tony Heath

Dublin docklands come back to life

The transformation of Dublin's largely dormant docklands into a hi-tech living and working community is envisaged in a plan aiming to create up to 40,000 jobs and 10,000 homes in Dublin Bay.

The project is the largest single urban development project in Ireland since the country's independence. The draft master plan, which goes on public display today, amounts to a blueprint for a technology-driven new town on 1,300 acres along the north and south waterfronts and their hinterlands, until recently a wasteland.

The regeneration marks a turnaround for an area, which, like the London Docklands two decades ago, had long been in decline. Schools, adult-learning facilities and job-training programmes are planned; other elements include tax incentives, new transport links, hotels and a shopping centre. The draft plan can be viewed on the Internet: <http://www.dca.ie> from 11 September. Alan Murdoch

Music awards take a low key



Jamiroquai and The Spice Girls were spearheading a strong British presence at this year's MTV Video Music Awards in New York last night. But the star-studded occasion was set to be overshadowed by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Elton John, one of the ceremony's presenters, is flying straight back to London in time for the Princess's funeral on Saturday morning.

Jazz funk stars Jamiroquai are poised to clean up at the awards, which will be watched by millions on MTV's world

network. The band have nominations in 10 categories for their "Virtual Reality" video, more than any other act. They will perform during the show, as will the Spice Girls, nominated in two categories, and U2. Beck is among the American performers and model Cindy Crawford (pictured) is one of the presenters.

Girl wins cerebral-palsy court case

A High Court judge yesterday ordered an education authority to pay the £30,000-a-year school fees of a seven-year-old girl suffering from cerebral palsy after the LEA had refused to do so on the grounds it was an inefficient use of resources.

Hereford and Worcester Council had ignored the findings of a Special Educational Needs Tribunal (Sent) that Karis Lane had not received proper attention at Chadsworth School in Bromsgrove, and, therefore, needed the special care provided by Inghild Manor in Billingshurst, West Sussex. The LEA did not pay her school fees which were met for the first term by Scope, formerly the Spastics Society. Mr Justice Collins refused an appeal by the county council to refer the case back to the Sent so that another, less expensive, school could be found for Karis. The girl's mother, Karen, was legally aided to defend the action and was represented by Cherie Booth QC.

Children laid to rest

The funeral took place yesterday of the two children who accidentally hanged themselves after a game went wrong.

Claire Rogers, 13, and Daniel Gibbs, 10, were cremated in a joint ceremony attended by hundreds of relatives and friends at the West Hertfordshire Crematorium in Garston. The children were found strangled with a scarf tied around their necks in Claire's bedroom last Tuesday. Her father Stephen discovered the bodies at the family home in Croxley Green, Hertfordshire. Claire's funeral was held at St Oswald's church, in Croxley Green, and a separate service was held for Daniel at St Michael's Church, Watford. Kate Watson-Smyth

Mother calls for shipwreck inquiry

A police decision to dispose of the scalloper Pescado, the vessel at the centre of a manslaughter trial after it sank with the loss of six crew more than six years ago, was criticised yesterday.

The Devon and Cornwall force has spent £1,000 a month storing the 100-tonne craft in Devonport dockyard, Plymouth, since it was raised from the seabed in September 1993, as part of a £500,000 police inquiry into the tragedy. But Rita Capon, from Durham, whose 23-year-old daughter, Jo-Ann Thomas, was the cook aboard the vessel, said yesterday she wanted a public inquiry into the sinking, and that the Pescado should be preserved as evidence. The crew died when the Plymouth registered vessel sank in 240 feet of water after sailing from Falmouth in February 1991.

Wit to stand for Irish presidency

Ireland's defenders of hard-line pro-Vatican social values are facing their ultimate challenge. The popular wit, Joyce scholar and gay rights campaigner Senator David Norris has agreed to be nominated for the country's presidency. His intervention follows pressure on John Hume, the SDLP leader, to stand, in a telephone call this week from Mary Harney, leader of the Progressive Democrats, the junior party in the ruling Dublin coalition. Mr Norris told *The Independent* that he had been asked to run in next month's poll by three Dail and Senate members from conservative to radical left, following numerous summer requests from the general public. He will run if the required 20 Dail and Senate members nominate him. Alan Murdoch

people



Jeremy Irons: Threatened to leave Britain if film of *Lolita* is banned

Irons says the US censors of 'Lolita' are as bad as Chinese

Jeremy Irons yesterday drew a direct comparison between the censorship in the United States of his new film, *Lolita*, and the repressive Chinese attitude towards freedom of expression in the cinema.

The actor spoke out during a news conference, at the Venice film festival, about *Chinese Box*, a film by Hong Kong-born director Wayne Wang, in which the stars are an English journalist. When asked how China's film censorship affected the ability to make films, he replied: "I have a film [*Lolita*] that's being held in America - censorship is censorship."

Wang had earlier said that it was very difficult to work in China because authorities hold the negatives of a film until they have approved it.

Irons stars as Humbert Humbert in the new movie version of Vladimir Nabokov's classic story of a middle-aged man's love affair with an under-age girl.

The film includes scenes of *Lolita*, played by 15-year-old Dominique Swain, lounging naked on a bed. A body double was used for some scenes.

The film has drawn criticism over the suitability of its subject matter, and its distribution was held up in the US by major Hollywood studios. It is scheduled to open officially in Rome, later this month, after showing at a film festival in Spain.

Last December, Irons threatened to leave Britain if his film was not released here. "I don't believe there is anything wrong with the movie," he said at the time. "I have heard people say it will not get a distributor to release it and if it does not get one I will leave the country."

The original *Lolita* film, directed in Britain by Stanley Kubrick and starring James Mason and Sue Lyon, was described as "the most controversial film ever to be made".

Despite calls for a ban it was given an X-certificate in 1962, but by today's standards it seems a cosy adaptation.

The remake was directed by Adrian Lyne, who made *Indecent Proposal* and *Fatal Attraction*.

The subject of censorship had already been raised at Venice. Zhang Yimou, the acclaimed Chinese director of films including *Red Sorghum* and *To Live*, showed his latest work, *Keep Cool*, at Venice on Wednesday after its planned premiere at the Cannes film festival in May was blocked by Peking.

The Chinese authorities have accused Zhang of portraying a backward China, out of step with their campaign for positive socialist ethics.

Kate Watson-Smyth

Judy Collins in Bosnia to take up landmine cause

Judy Collins (right), the American singer-songwriter, arrived in Bosnia yesterday to promote the campaign to ban landmines. Her three-day trip, sponsored by UNICEF, will include visits to elementary schools in Sarajevo and a theatre festival for young people in the divided southern city of Mostar.

The Princess of Wales spent three days visiting landmine victims in Bosnia early last month on a tour organized by the US-based Landmine Survivors Network.

"This was one of the Diana's last efforts," Collins said. "I think that her tragic death will underline, highlight some of the things that she was most interested in, of course, keeping landmines in the forefront."

Millions of landmines remain scattered across Bosnia, following the three-and-a-half-year war that ended in late 1995. The mines maim and kill civilians almost every day.

Judy Collins has a long history of protest - singing and marching against segregation and the Vietnam war, but was brought back into the political mainstream by President Clinton, who asked her to sing at his inauguration.

She has also suffered great personal sadness. Five years ago her only child, Clark Taylor, committed suicide at the age of 34.

She is widely known as the artist whose cover versions helped



Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen to wider acceptance, and is best remembered in Britain for her hit versions of "Both Sides Now", "Amazing Grace" and "Send in the Clowns".

Collins visited Bosnia for the first time in 1994, when, as a UNICEF representative, she volunteered to help promote the book *I Dream of Peace*.

Inspired by the writings and drawings of the children of former Yugoslavia, she wrote a song with the same title, which was included in her album *Come Rejoice!* A Judy Collins Christmas.

After her starring role at the President's inaugural concert, Ms Collins said: "It felt strange but very flattering to be inside the White House as a guest, rather than outside protesting."

David Lister

Shipyard's first woman worker

One of Britain's most respected ship repair centres has broken with its macho traditions and taken its first woman on board. Claire Goss O'Connor, 17, is the first female apprentice to be taken on at the A&F Tyne ship repair yard on the River Tyne.

The former South Tyneside College student is one of 26 apprentices. She will spend four years training to be an electrical fitter.

Yesterday she said she was excited at the prospect of working on the complex electrical systems of some of the world's most sophisticated vessels. "The course is excellent - broad-based and comprehensive enough to give me a solid grounding in the maritime engineering business. I'm delighted to be here and determined to succeed."

Managing director Barry Johnson said: "It is somewhat embarrassing to realise that Claire is the first female ship repair apprentice on the river but everything has to start somewhere."

"I am convinced she will find her apprenticeship both challenging and rewarding and that she has what it takes to make a positive contribution to our business in the medium term."

Claire is among 49 apprentices joining firms on the Tyne this year. Mr Johnson said: "We have to make up for lost time. Apprenticeship schemes died out during the bad times of the early 1990s."

"We now have to invest in our future."

briefing

SCIENCE

Nerve implant that helps paraplegics to walk again

Crippled patients are being helped to stand and walk with an implant that stimulates the roots of paralysed nerves, it was revealed yesterday. One woman who smashed her spine in a car accident about seven years ago is now able to walk a few steps with assistance - and ride a tricycle.

The new device is called a Lumbar Anterior Root Stimulator Implant (LARS) which is surgically placed in the spine. Unlike other implants it stimulates the roots of nerves rather than the point at which they enter the muscles.

Two paraplegic patients have been given the implant by a team of doctors led by Dr Nick Donaldson, from University College London.

They reported in the *Lancet* medical journal yesterday that the first patient, who underwent surgery in December 1994, has now been standing regularly for more than two years. Although her standing posture was still unsatisfactory, she had been able to take 24 consecutive steps while being guided by helpers. In addition, the combination of joint movements available meant she was able to ride a tricycle or cycle machine.

The second patient, a man, has just begun to stand six months after implantation. It is too early to say how successful his treatment has been.

The battery-powered implant is activated by the patient using a small control box.

HEALTH

Frozen foods - handle with care

Frozen beefburgers and sausages that have to be priced apart are turning kitchens into war zones, doctors warned yesterday. Increasing numbers of people are appearing at hospital casualty departments with hand injuries after using knives to separate frozen food items. Some suffer cut tendons and nerve damage from which they never fully recover.

A group of doctors has urged manufacturers to help reduce the level of injury with warning labels and instructions on how to separate frozen items safely.

Consultant plastic surgeon Stewart Flemming, from St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, Essex, and two colleagues, identified 27 patients with knife wounds treated at four hospitals between 1992 and 1995. Additional information from the Department of Trade and Industry's home accident surveillance database for 1991 disclosed 32 patients with "cutting or piercing" injuries involving frozen items.

Beefburgers were by far the biggest danger, responsible for 30 of the accidents. Other cases involved chops, sausages, crumpets and pastry.



HOMELESSNESS

One in 50 on the streets has TB

Health chiefs are ignoring the risk of tuberculosis to homeless people, new research claims. One in 50 rough sleepers has TB - 200 times the average rate - yet fewer than a third of health authorities and trusts are providing services to reduce the risk of catching the disease, according to homeless charity Crisis.

Research by the charity shows that only 21 per cent of health authorities operate screening programmes for homeless people. Only 20 per cent monitor the housing of hospital patients and only 36 per cent have a member of staff following up homeless TB patients.

The charity claims only minimal extra money is needed to put more efficient plans into practice.

Dr Ken Citron, who carried out the research, said: "The problem is not yet at epidemic levels, and we have enough time and knowledge to make sure it doesn't become so. However, if health care purchasers and providers don't act, many people will suffer unnecessarily."

DRUGS

Extent of addiction underestimated

Policy makers are being given an inaccurate picture of the extent of illicit drug use, experts claimed yesterday. Drug monitoring did not take account of the prevalence of known problem drug-takers, and provided a "false picture of trends of visible drug use". In addition, the data that was collected was flawed because of under-reporting by drug agencies.

Researchers led by Matthew Hickman, from Imperial College, London, investigated reports of "episodes" of drug use attendance at dependency and rehabilitation clinics. Although records were kept on new clients, the prevalence of known problem drug users who may attend more than one agency was not measured.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, the researchers said: "The database does not measure the prevalence of known problem drug-takers, which means it is inadequate for planning services and provides a false picture of trends of visible drug use."

"The database needs to be changed rather than abandoned since policy makers and health services need information on drug users in contact with services."

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3
90 P311

More emotion, less ceremony

Elton to sing as Abbey precedent is cast aside

Michael Streeter

Palace officials and the Spencer family have thrown away Royal precedent for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The result will be the kind of celebration of her life that Diana herself may have wanted: sad, emotional but not overly ceremonial. Perhaps significantly, no members of the Royal Family will speak, though the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince Philip will be in the front row of mourners.

The Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, who will conduct part of the service, said it would contain quiet, reflective time to allow people to mourn her loss; secondly a chance would be given to offer thanks for her "many gifts"; finally, there will be a commitment to the causes that Diana espoused. Once again the Palace insisted it was a "unique" event for a unique person.

The 50-minute ceremony will contain traditional elements, including hymns and the National Anthem as reminders of her Royal status. But the highlight of the non-traditional parts will be Elton John singing a specially amended version of his song "Candle in the Wind".

The words - still being finalised, though a version was available yesterday - are a dedication to Diana, starting "Goodbye, England's Rose; may you ever grow in our

hearts". They replace the words of the original which were written as a tribute to Marilyn Monroe and read "Goodbye Norma Jean, though I never knew you at all".

The tribute will be given by Diana's brother, Earl Spencer. Her two sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Lady Sarah Fellowes, will read poems, and Tony Blair will give a reading from 1 Corinthians 13.

But, after discussions between the two families, there will be no formal participation by any member of the Royal Family.

Dr Carr explained the reasoning behind the choice of personnel, saying: "We are remembering a particular individual in a private funeral which is very public." He emphasised that it was not a state occasion.

In the Bidding, the Dean will tell the 1,900-strong congregation, which will include many friends of the Princess from all over the world, including fashion and pop stars, that Diana "profoundly influenced" the nation.

"She kept company with kings and queens, with princes and presidents, but we especially remember her humane concerns and how she met individuals and made them feel significant. In her death she commands the sympathy of millions," he will say.

Later, the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey



Diana, Princess of Wales, comforting Elton John at the funeral of the fashion designer Gianni Versace in Milan in July

will lead the prayers, including one for Prince William and Prince Harry, who mourn the passing of their dearly beloved mother.

He will also refer to the other victims of the crash early last Sunday that claimed her life. "We remember too her friend, Dodi Fayed and his family,"

Henri Paul (the driver) and all for whom today's service rekindles memories of untimely grief," he will say. The Archbishop will then recall the work the Princess carried out with those suffering from AIDS and her "compassion for those maimed through the evil of land mines".

The service will end with music from the composer John Tavener, which will "fade into silence" as a prelude to a minute's silence. The end of the silence will be marked by the ringing of the Abbey bells.

At a press briefing yesterday, a Palace spokeswoman said no decision had been on whether Princes William and Harry, or their father Prince Charles and members of the Spencer family, will walk behind the cortege

on the way to the Abbey. In particular, it had to be assessed whether the two boys were up to the "ordeal" she said.

Both families have requested that no photographs or television shots should be taken of them during the service - other than of those giving readings.

The coffin's journey to the Abbey, likely to be watched by more than six million people en route, will begin at 9am on Saturday when it is placed on a gun

carriage drawn by three pairs of horses from the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, with 12 bearers from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. The Royal Standard will cover the coffin, with family wreaths on top.

There will be a mounted police guard, but no other troops and no trumpets or fanfare; the 1-hour-47-minute procession will move in silence. However, the the Abbey's Tenor Bell will be

toll every minute. No time scale has been given for the later procession to the Spencer Chapel in Northamptonshire.

The full guest list may be announced later today, but Lt Col Malcolm Ross, Comptroller in the Lord Chamberlain's office, said the number of official dignitaries had been "greatly reduced" to allow more people associated with Diana's interests and life to attend.

Elton John's Candle in the Wind for Diana

This is the new version of "Candle in the Wind", by Elton John and Bernie Taupin for Diana, Princess of Wales's funeral.

Goodbye England's rose,
may you ever grow in our hearts.
You were the grace that placed itself
where lives were torn apart.
You called out to our country,
and you whispered to those in pain.
Now you belong to Heaven,
and the stars spell out your name.

And it seems to me you lived your life
like a candle in the wind:
never fading with the sunset
when the rain set in.
And your footsteps will always fall here,
along England's greenest hills;

Your candle's burned out long before
your legend ever will.

Loveliness we've lost;
these empty days without your smile.
This torch we'll always carry
for our nation's golden child.
And even though we try,
the truth brings us to tears;
all our words cannot express
the joy you brought us through the years.

Goodbye England's rose,
from a country lost without your soul,
who'll miss the wings of your compassion
more than you'll ever know.

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A mixture of old and new: 'as she would have wanted'

Steve Boggan

It is a mix of the old and the new, the traditional and the avant garde, the poignant, the popular and the compassionate. In short, Diana's funeral service is exactly what she would have wanted and it drew gasps of appreciation after its unveiling yesterday from those who knew and loved her.

"They've achieved the impossible," said the Reverend Tony Lloyd, head of the Leprosy Mission, one of the six charities with which the Princess was most closely involved.

"I was hoping for something that would unite the nation in its grief, provide an opportunity for thanksgiving for her life and remind us that there is hope. On Saturday, this will achieve all three."

Mr Lloyd, a great friend of the Princess, was particularly impressed with the choice of "Make Me a Channel of your Peace", the modern re-working of the words of St Francis of Assisi by Sebastian Temple, the choice of the Prime Minister's reading from Corinthians, and the new rendition of "Candle in the Wind".

"Diana was always trying to make herself a channel through which peace and hope could be

achieved, so that is most appropriate," he said. "The Prime Minister's reading from Corinthians is about the virtues of love and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These were reflected in Diana's giving, her wit and charisma. In Greek, that translates to *charitas* which means compassion and love. And I think 'Candle in the Wind' is said but appropriate."

'We were swept up in the emotion of it all'
Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster

The choice of words and music were made in conjunction with both families but much of the input on the musical side came from Diana's sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale. Her choices of "Amazing Grace", "Adagio", Antonin Dvorak's "Largo" from the "New World Symphony", Pachelbel's "Canon" and Elgar's "Nimrod", were praised by Simon Lindley, secretary of the Church Music Society.

Coupled with the more contemporary "Prelude" by

William Harris and pieces by Camille Saint-Saens, he said the choice was "breath-taking".

"It is a wonderful kaleidoscope of music that is very popular and familiar with elements of the new," he said. "The inclusion of work by Mendelssohn and William Harris was most appropriate."

He praised the organist who will play in Westminster Abbey,

swept up in the emotion of the thing and we found ourselves on that great public tidal wave, thinking the same things as most people," he said. "And, like most people, we thought this would be what she would have wanted."

"We contacted Elton John and he replied very positively very quickly. He was close to Diana in two fields; her love of popular music and of the fashion world."

"Yes, we thought he might find it difficult, but he wants to do it. I would expect people to weep at funerals if that is how they feel. But we have been very careful here to combine, grieving with thanksgiving and hope, and I would not expect much weeping by the end."

Westminster Abbey staff said last night that they had been unable to source the two passages to be read by the Princess's sisters, Lady Sarah and Lady Jane Fellowes, but hoped to identify them before the ceremony.

The choice of "Song for Athens" by John Tavener to lead into the national period of silence at the end of the service is particularly poignant. It was written by Tavener in 1993 as a tribute to a young friend who was killed in a cycling accident.

"Like everyone else, we were

hallucinations, and it can be very infectious."

Dr Anthony Taylor, a lecturer at Warwick University, added: "People are starting to see Diana as a secular Virgin Mary. In Catholic countries, the Virgin Mary has appeared to people at times of crisis."

Psychologists explain 'apparition'

Nathy Marks

People who reported seeing a "vision" of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a portrait of King Charles I in St James's Palace were exhibiting a classic symptom of pathological mourning, psychologists say.

Among the crowds queuing to sign the books of condolence on Wednesday, a number emerged, convinced that they had seen Diana's face in the portrait of Edward Bower's painting, which hangs in a corridor of the palace.

Oliver James, a clinical psy-

chologist, said it was an extreme manifestation of a recognised phenomenon among the recently bereaved. "One response in some people is to see the dead person all around them."

"They smell them, hear them, sense them everywhere. In extreme cases, people have

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Diana 1961-1997

the crowds



Camping out: a couple take up their places outside Westminster Abbey two days early so as not to miss the funeral cortege Photograph: Tom Pilton

Police security operation will be biggest ever

Jason Bennetto

The largest security operation ever mounted in London is expected to surround tomorrow's funeral.

More than 20,000 police officers will be used to maintain order for an estimated crowd of up to six million people. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said yesterday that the event was "unprecedented" and he warned parents to think twice before bringing young children into the heaving crowds. He also said that some people with disabilities might have difficulty with being trapped amongst millions of other mourners for many hours.

Sir Paul told a press briefing: "People should come prepared for a long wait as they may find themselves confined to a particular area for several hours. Parents should carefully consider whether to bring very young children and avoid the most congested areas."

Sir Paul revealed details of the vast security operation taking place from today and over the weekend. He said Scotland Yard was preparing to deal with up to six million people lining the funeral route from Kensington Palace to Westminster Abbey, which is expected to take one hour and 50 minutes.

Two shifts of 8,000 uniformed officers will guard the route. Spaced evenly in front of the barriers, the officers will face the crowd throughout the procession. An additional 2,000 volunteer Special Constables are also expected to help out, and an estimated 1,500 plain-clothed CID officers will mingle with the crowds to ensure public order is maintained.

On standby will be 80 police horses and their riders to deal with any crushes in the crowd as the coffin passes, and emergency back up teams to deal with any other disorder. Officers from the City of London police, British Transport Police and the Royal Parks Police will also be on duty. The cortege will be accompanied by police motorcycle outriders as security staff, including members of Scotland Yard's Royal Protection Branch, as it makes its way along the M1.

The huge number of VIPs attending the funeral will also receive special protection. Security checks have already started with anti-terrorist and specialist squad members searching potential danger areas along the route, such as rooftops and sewers. Police will be positioned on

tops of buildings throughout the day and will be monitoring surveillance cameras along the routes and surrounding areas. Sir Paul said: "We are planning for all contingencies. There are no new threats expected. A huge significant security operation is already in place."

He later added: "Everyone involved in the arrangements is seeking to respond to three important concerns. First, public safety, in anticipation of several million people being present in Central London. Secondly, the security, feelings and dignity of those who will take part in the funeral procession."

Finally, the need of the nation to express its collective grief with potentially millions of people to be present and to be able to see the procession.

"It is hoped that everyone who turns up can be accommodated along the route. However, if officers feel that an area is becoming too congested people will be redirected elsewhere."

Sir Paul warned people to plan ahead and bring rain-proof clothing, water and food. All buses and tube stations except for Westminster, will be running on Saturday, although huge delays are expected. Parking restrictions were being introduced south of the River Thames from midnight last night and parking will be severely limited in central London on Saturday.

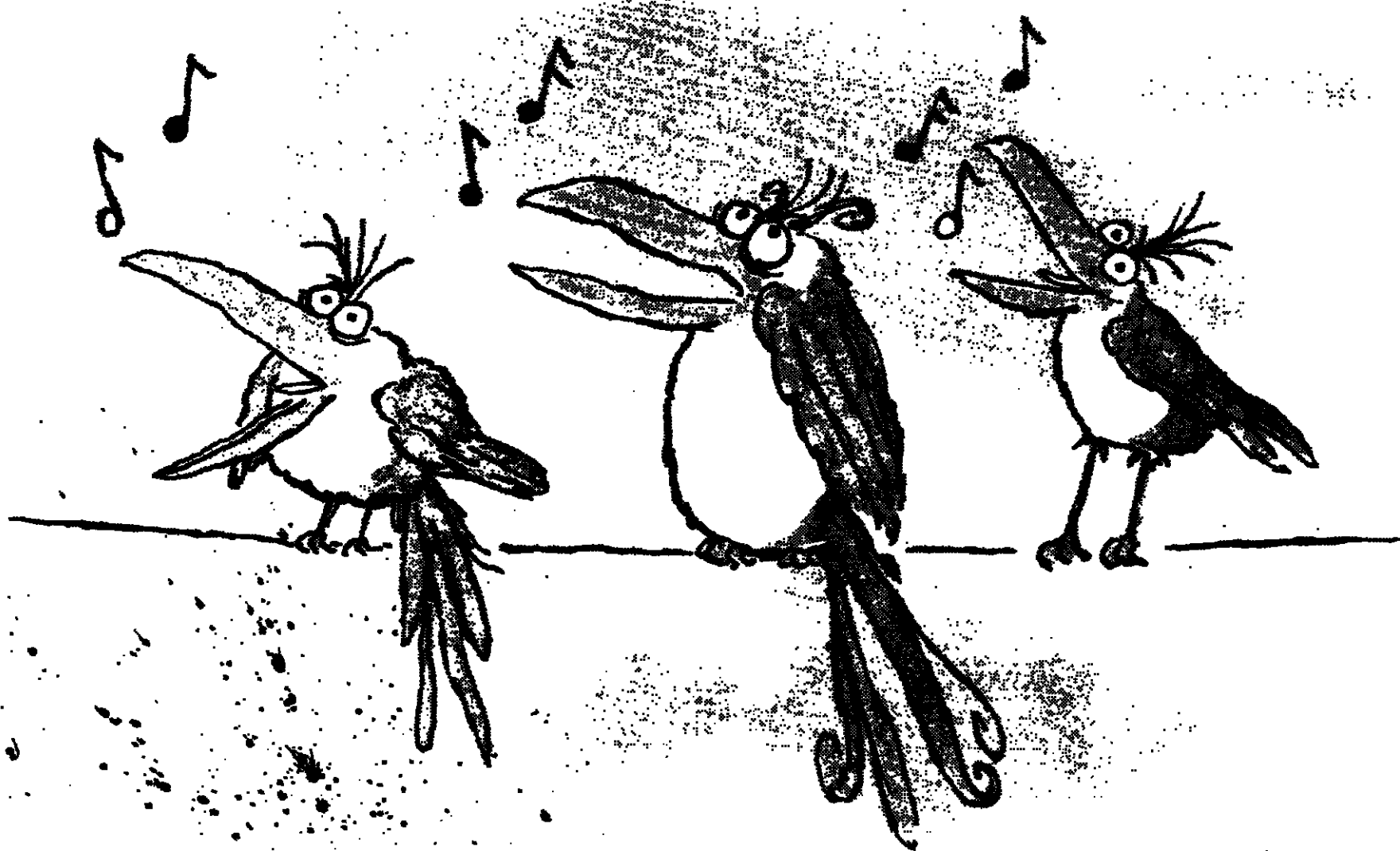
People who will be commuting from outside London have been advised that they should park in the suburbs and use public transport.

Sir Paul also said that plans were not yet finalised for the transfer of the Princess's body from St James's Palace to Kensington Palace on Friday night. He refused to comment on the suggestion that Prince Charles and his two sons might be planning to accompany the cortege.

People should carefully consider whether to bring young children

Paul Condon

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Travel headache as millions head for the capital

Jojo Moyes

A train named by Diana, Princess of Wales, is to provide overnight accommodation for some of the mourners travelling to London for her funeral on Saturday.

The Red Cross, named by the Princess in May 1988, will remain on platform one at Paddington station in London tonight. It will provide shelter for 480 passengers, who might otherwise have to sleep rough.

Great Western, the train's owner, said a number of its drivers were giving up rest days to help get mourners to London.

Many train companies are laying on extra services to cope with the huge crowds expected. London Tilbury and Southend (LTS) Rail is doubling and tripling the length of some trains and providing free car parking at nearby stations.

With mourners advised to arrive in good time for the funeral, some trains will reach London as early as 4.55am. London Underground is providing extra trains but is warning that Westminster station will be closed all day for safety reasons.

The coach company National Express said it was providing at least 100 additional coaches and advised people to book as early as possible. The firm said

it was experiencing "unprecedented demand" and a two-minute silence would be observed at 11am on Saturday at its coach stations.

Virgin Trains said money raised by the sale of its £6 Weekend First tickets would be donated to the Princess Diana Memorial Fund.

Many roads in central London will be closed on Saturday from early morning until the bulk of the crowds have dispersed. Motorists were being advised not to drive into London. The Highways Agency said most roadworks would be suspended but Westminster Council warned parking restrictions in central London would be strictly enforced.

British Airways said it had sold an estimated 4,000 extra tickets to people worldwide wishing to attend the funeral. Most interest has come from the United States, followed by France, Germany and Holland.

Meanwhile, car hire company Hertz, which was running a promotion offering a free Mercedes for a month and the chance to take part in a Mercedes-Benz safety driving course, has dropped the scheme "as a mark of respect". The driver of the Mercedes in the Diana death-crash had completed the course.

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Barbican announces plan to humanise itself

David Lister
Arts News Editor

The much-criticised Barbican Centre in London is to be given a "new human face" by its managing director John Tusa.

The arts centre has suffered years of criticism from audiences who claim it is hard to find your way about, and it has been plagued by management prob-

lems before Mr Tusa's arrival from the BBC World Service.

Yesterday Mr Tusa launched the first full season at the centre without the year-long residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company which will only be in London for the winter months.

Announcing an eclectic programme including foreign theatre, seasons by the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet, con-

temporary dance companies, comedy performances outdoors in the sculpture court, and the centre's first education programme.

But Mr Tusa's new director of public affairs, Ruth Hasnup, said: "The message from our audiences following extensive customer research was very clear. We needed to communicate the human side of the

building, the lively mix of our audience and the welcoming staff, as well as the exciting programme."

And so the new Barbican Centre will have two mobile information points in the foyer to tell visitors how to find their way around. New, brightly coloured uniforms are being introduced for the 150 stewards and box office staff. And the

monthly events guides have gaily coloured covers proclaiming "helpful staff" as an added plus for the centre.

The centre has undergone a £1.9m transformation, upgrading the acoustics in the main theatre and giving it two orchestra pits and a new sprung floor for dance.

Mr Tusa said: "The Barbican Centre will always be at the

Barbican. There is nothing we can do to change that. Some people don't like coming here, but two million people do. The Barbican Theatre with its intimate auditorium... is one of the best equipped stages in London.

It has now become a unique space within the London scene - no other theatre can offer the range and flexibility to play such a wide variety of work."

Jailbirds may be key to art heist of century

David Osborne
New York

Either it is a hoax of grand proportions or the best news the art world has heard in years: 12 masterpieces, including works by Rembrandt and Degas, stolen in Boston seven years ago, may have been found.

What was arguably the art theft of the century happened on 18 March 1990, when two men dressed as police officers forced their way into the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and made off with the paintings valued at \$300m.

Among the works were two Rembrandts, *A Lady and a Gentleman in Black* and *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, the only known seascape by the painter, as well as Vermeer's *The Astronomer*. Also purloined that morn-

"They're hoaxers or go-betweens. We don't know yet, do we?"

ing were paintings by Manet. Years of investigation by the FBI, which made the capture of the art thieves a highest priority, yielded a zero.

Until, that is, a shady antiques dealer in Boston, facing charges of drugs and weapons possession, came forward recently, claiming that he knew the whereabouts of the missing art.

William Youngworth told the FBI that he and an art-thief friend serving time in a federal prison, Myles Connor, had information that would lead agents to recovering the long-lost works. Both men were serving prison terms at the time

of the theft and could not have been directly involved.

In return for the information, Mr Youngworth demanded immunity from all charges filed against him, the release of Connor from prison and the \$5m (£2.9m) reward still outstanding for the return of the paintings. Mr Youngworth repeated his demands in a television interview broadcast on Wednesday evening.

Understandably, the Gardner Museum is excited. Formal contacts between its lawyers and representatives of Mr Youngworth are under way.

Yesterday Connor was temporarily transferred from his cell in Pennsylvania to Boston to enter serious negotiations with the FBI.

Neither man has a reputation that invites trust from the authorities. Mr Youngworth, 38, has a history of forgery and making false claims. Connor, 54, allegedly Mr Youngworth's mentor, was a night-club rock singer in the Sixties and Seventies, authorities said, before beginning a career of crime.

The men do, however, have some special credibility in this instance.

Connor, in particular, has a history of stealing art works and then securing leniency from prosecutors by turning up other treasures already missing.

In 1975, for instance, he pleaded guilty to stealing Andrew Wyeth paintings from a Maine estate but escaped jail by directing prosecutors to a \$5m Rembrandt stolen previously from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Serious attention started being paid to Mr Youngworth last week after it was disclosed that he had secretly arranged a visit by a reporter from the *Boston Herald* newspaper to see one of the paintings.



Master stroke: Rembrandt's *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, which a reporter may have seen Photograph: Gardner Museum

The reporter, Tom Mashberg, was apparently taken to a warehouse somewhere in New England and, by dim torchlight, shown Rembrandt's *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*.

Under the front-page headline "WE'VE SEEN IT!", the *Herald* printed the astonishing tale last week.

Mr Mashberg is not an art expert, nor was he allowed to touch the painting he was being shown. But after a long meeting between him and the

directors of the Gardner museum, the latter said it was taking Mr Youngworth's claim seriously.

What Mr Mashberg saw was either "an extremely good copy or it was the Gardner painting".

It is not clear whether Mr Youngworth or Connor are acquainted with the Gardner thieves or if they even know their identity.

Mr Youngworth, who faces a hearing on his drugs and

weapons charges in Boston today, is expected to meet federal agents to discuss the paintings immediately afterwards.

In spite of the murkiness of the affair, some experts are daring to hope that the missing treasures may be hanging in the Gardner once more within weeks.

"This is the most interesting lead yet," suggested Constance Lowenthal, of the International Foundation for Art Research in New York, which specialises

in tracking down stolen works. "They're either hoaxers or go-betweens. We don't know yet, do we?"

The Gardner, meanwhile, is unapologetic about giving credence to Mr Youngworth and his claims.

Joan Norris, the museum's marketing director, said that the significance of the 1990 theft is "so great that the Gardner must do everything we can to recover those works of art."

Cash for Gulf illness tests

Ian Burrell

Gulf War veterans have been awarded a \$400,000 package by the Legal Aid Board to subject themselves to direct medical testing as it emerged that the Government's own tests for illness are only being carried out on rats and monkeys.

Dawbarns of King's Lynn, which represents 450 Gulf clients, said the board's decision to fund the first study involving direct medical testing was expected to provide them with the evidence to serve dozens of writs for compensation early in the new year.

The Ministry of Defence has also finally admitted that blood samples were taken from troops in the field of battle and flown back to the military research laboratories at Porton Down for analysis.

After initial denials that the blood sampling programme, revealed by *The Independent* in February, had taken place at all, the ministry has said the samples have been found in a freezer at Porton Down.

Now the veterans' lawyers will be seeking to carry out analysis of the samples, taken over a three-week period shortly after deployment to the Gulf, to provide supporting evidence to that which is gathered in the new medical study.

Later this month, victims of the syndrome will give samples of blood and have biopsies taken. These will be analysed by a team of scientists from around the world at laboratories in London, Glasgow, Nottingham and North Carolina.

Among the leading scientists who will be working on the study is Goran Jamal, the Glasgow-

based neurophysiologist, who is renowned for his work on organophosphate poisoning. An initial pool of 100 veterans, will be whittled down to a group of 40 who are thought to best represent the symptoms suffered by the estimated 1,500 sick troops.

Richard Barr, who is co-ordinating the legal action, said: "We have been waiting for this for ages. We hope the tests will enable us to establish the causative link and I very much doubt the MoD will be arguing after that."

Promises made after the election by John Reid, the armed forces minister, to seek out the cause of the Gulf War sickness have led to a scheme of testing which was dismissed as of "no help at all to the veterans".

In the government experiments, scientists have been told to administer the same vaccines given to the Gulf troops to a batch of laboratory rats, whose health will be monitored until 2001. Interim findings are due at the end of next year. A similar set of experiments will be carried out on monkeys.

But Mr Barr said: "The immune responses of monkeys and rats are different from those of humans. "Monkeys and rats are not under heat stress or fatigue. They have not been into battle or made to wear [chemical and biological warfare] suits. How do you tell when a rat is depressed?"

The veterans are angry that government inquiries into the cause of Gulf illnesses have until now concentrated on epidemiological surveys based on questionnaires and statistical analysis.

Most victims believe the cause to be the vaccines and tablets they were given to protect them from chemical and biological warfare, possibly interacting with the organophosphate sprays and other pesticides which were widely used.

The bereaved families of dead Gulf veterans are furious that their sons have been asked to fill out MoD questionnaires as part of the official study into why they became sick.

One former soldier, who died last year, was sent a second form with a covering letter demanding to know why he had not filled in the first one. It is believed that the families of up to 50 other dead veterans may have received similar letters.

John Callaghan senior, whose son John died last year, said: "You can imagine what it did for us, asking him to fill a load of boxes in when he was not even there. This is being done without feeling and without research."

His son, who served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, took his life last year at the age of 27. He was displaying the typical symptoms being felt by the 1,500 sick British Gulf veterans.

DAILY POEM

Casida of Weeping

By Federico Garcia Lorca
(translated by Edwin Morgan)

My balcony I've drawn. I've shut it -
who could bear to hear this weeping?
And yet the grey walls cannot hide it -
there's no sound but the sound of weeping.

Singing angels are few, are few -
barking dogs are few, are few -
hundreds of violins in the shadow of a hand -

and yet the weeping is a vast dog,
and the weeping is angel and violin,
vast the angel and vast the violin,
the wind is choked with the crying, leaving
no sound but the sound of weeping.

This version of one of Lorca's "casidas" - based on the ancient verse forms of Moorish Andalusia - comes from the *Collected Translations of the Scottish poet Edwin Morgan*, published by Carcanet (£14.95).

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Match 5 plus bonus ball	11	£107,392	£1,181,312
Match 5	887	£1,257	£1,120,859
Match 4	28,800	£80	£2,304,000
Match 3	460,560	£10	£4,605,600
TOTALS	487,958	£13,132,771	£13,132,771

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news

Universities are groaning at the seams, but think tank says poverty relief rather than better education is the key to prosperity

Better literacy may not benefit the economy

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Ministers should end child poverty instead of spending more on education if they want to raise school standards, according to a new report published today.

Tony Blair's slogan "education, education, education" is mistaken, says Peter Robinson, author of the study from the Centre for Economic Performance, an independent research unit at the London School of Economics.

This direct challenge to the Government's belief that better education leads to a stronger economy comes the day after the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, underlined the Government's pledge to raise standards in schools with an education summit.

The Downing Street event brought ministers and civil servants together with 40 headteachers and others from the education world to discuss themes which included boosting school leadership, stretching children of average ability, improving teaching quality and tackling underperformance.

The report argues against

these approaches. "A serious programme to tackle child poverty might do far more for boosting attainment in literacy and numeracy than any modest interventions in schooling."

A study of comparative performance in international maths surveys over the last 35 years shows that the scores bear very little relationship to economic performance. While the growing Asian economies do well, so do the Slovak Republic and Bulgaria.

"The two most successful small Asian economies, Singapore and Hong Kong, had in 1985 adult illiteracy rates of 14 and 12 per cent." The rate in advanced industrial economies is less than 1 per cent.

The report followed people born in the same week in 1958 and 1970 and suggests that class size, homework, setting and streaming and teaching methods have no impact on literacy and numeracy, but social class does.

The only impact schools can make is shown in the finding that working-class children learn more if they are educated with middle-class children. Mr Robinson said the findings suggested

that children did best in socially mixed comprehensives.

The report points out that, though the economy does not benefit from higher literacy and numeracy standards, individuals do. Yet the Government's present policy of targets ensures that schools have little incentive to concentrate on the bottom 10 or 15 per cent of pupils.

At GCSE that meant that the least able were neglected because the Government target was five A-C grades (the three top grades).

In primary schools, the target was for all pupils to reach Level 4 in maths and English, suggesting that teachers should concentrate on those who are just below average. Level 3 for all would be a better target because it would compel teachers to pay more attention to the least able, Mr Robinson said.

He added: "The Government says that at the moment we have an education system that benefits the few and not the majority. It is the other way round. The system benefits the majority but not the few at the bottom."



University freshers: the late applications to join their numbers are up by 50 per cent on last year

Photograph: Christopher Jones

College hopefuls rush for last places

Lucy Ward
Education Correspondent

Late applications to university have risen by 50 per cent so far compared with last year as

would-be students seek to snap up the last free higher education places. The rise was logged yesterday by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, UCAS, whose "clearing"

system matches university applicants to unfilled places.

UCAS had forecast a flood of extra applications as qualified candidates opted to try for university this year to avoid the introduction of tuition fees and abolition of grants, being phased in from September 1998. However, despite initial alarm that thousands of aspiring students might be left disappointed this year amid the scramble for places, the system is so far absorbing the extra numbers. So far 303,800 students have been placed for courses starting in October, including 34,100 who applied through clearing. UCAS estimates that some 310,000 places are available in UK universities.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) yesterday said it expected the system to accommodate all suitably qualified candidates who had so far applied through clearing, despite this year's increase. The num-

Parents willing to help meet the bill

Most parents are prepared to contribute towards their children's university tuition fees – a marked shift in attitude over the last six years, writes Judith Judd.

Figures from a MORI poll released today show that 83 per cent of parents think they or their children should foot at least part of the bill. In a similar poll in 1991 that applied to only 38 per cent of parents.

MORI, commissioned by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, interviewed 2,008 adults immediately after the Dearing review of higher education was published in July, recommending a £1000-a-year tuition fee. The poll shows that 17 per cent of parents said they were not prepared to pay. It will be published prior to a conference on Tuesday organised by the committee and sponsored by *The Independent*, looking at the impact of fees on universities.

Under a government-imposed freeze on student numbers, universities are penalised if they exceed targets by more than 2 per cent.

However, Paul McClure, UCAS head of operations, predicted the number of extra late applicants would continue to rise steadily.

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nalling and stations, is going to invest £275m in vital resignalling work that will improve the service.

The privatised railway network has taken a battering in the last week. On Tuesday, Connex South Central, which runs commuter services from London to the south coast, was forced to cut more than 350 trains from its flagship route after failing to attract enough passengers to make the line commercially viable.

John King, managing director of the tour operator Ski Activity, said that the swing from America to Canada started around 1995. But he feels America may be on the

Photograph: Skishoot – Offshoot

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SMALL PRINT

Power station to burn dirty fuel

Nicholas Schoon
Environment Correspondent

A "filthy" fuel made from oil refinery waste, is to be burnt at Europe's biggest coal-fired power station for a 10-week trial period, the Government's Environment Agency announced yesterday.

The decision was immediately attacked by the local council and MP. People living around the huge, 2,400 megawatt Drax plant near York are concerned about the plans to burn 30,000 tonnes of petroleum coke, or petcoke, this autumn.

Its owner, National Power, says it has to find cheaper ways of running Drax: petcoke could be a solution. As a waste product it costs less than coal mined nearby which feeds the station. But petcoke is substantially more polluting than coal. It contains higher levels of sulphur,

er coal-fired power stations.

The result is that a station built to run continuously at full power is being closed down for more and more hours during periods of low electricity demand when it cannot compete.

"Western Europe's biggest power station is being forced slowly out of business, slipping down the merit order," said a National Power spokesman.

The company insists that far from substituting for British coal, petcoke might offer the few remaining mines a more secure future by helping keep Drax running for longer hours. But John Grogan, Labour MP for Selby, said: "It is economic and environmental madness to trial burn a dirty by-product of American oil refining rather than the much cleaner Selby coal."

Petcoke is burnt in some British cement and lime kilns as well as being mixed in with some household coal. A few power stations in Europe and the USA already use it. The fuel is difficult to ignite but burns at a very high temperature.

National Power said there would be no substantial increases in pollution from Drax during the trial, and since it had the pollution-curbing equipment it was the best power station for petcoke. Emissions will be carefully monitored in co-operation with the Environment Agency, which will also examine the environmental threat posed by the station's ash which will contain raised levels of nickel and vanadium.

If the trial is a success then National Power is expected to apply to the agency for permission to burn petcoke permanently at Drax - although it will always be mixed with coal. Selby District Council's deputy chief executive Mike White said he had not yet received assurances that the trial would be properly monitored. "We're very disappointed," he added. The Environment Agency said burning petcoke at Drax could be of environmental benefit if it helped the power station out-compete other, dirtier coal-fired stations.

'Western Europe's biggest power station is being forced slowly out of business'

which causes acid rain, as well as higher levels of nickel - a potentially hazardous heavy metal - and the rare element vanadium which irritates the lungs and throat.

During the trial the fuel would be mixed with four times as much coal, then consumed in one of station's six burners.

Drax is Europe's biggest coal-fired power station, and cleanest, because it has £640m worth of anti-pollution equipment. This removes nearly all the sulphur dioxide produced when coal is burnt.

But maintaining this complex equipment adds to its running costs by up to 10 per cent, according to National Power. So Drax is at a disadvantage compared to gas, nuclear and oth-



Winter of discontent: Wage demands could see a return to industrial unrest, a survey has warned. Photograph: Hulton Getty

New winter of discontent may be on the way

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

A warning by leading employment lawyers that industrial relations may be heading towards the worst "winter of discontent" for years has come under fire from trade unions.

The TUC, anxious to promote industrial peace and partnership ahead of its annual conference next week, denounced a survey by the solicitors Dibb Lupton Alsop which showed increasing industrial tension as "flawed and irresponsible".

The report showed that "industrial unrest" had increased for the fifth year running, with 42 per cent of unionised employees affected in the last year.

It comes as leaders of 21,000 employees at the Ford Motor Company yesterday lodged a claim for a "substantial" pay rise and a two-hour cut in the working week amid predictions that this year's high-profile negotiations are likely to be "fraught".

Within inflation standing at 3.3 per cent and economists expecting it to move higher, leaders of Ford's manual workers will be expecting a rise well in excess of 4 per cent.

The settlement at Ford is always one of the most influen-

tial deals in the wage round and will provide a target for millions of workers in manufacturing.

Although the present 39-hour week is the longest in the car industry, it is unclear whether Ford workers will be prepared to forego part of their wage rise in order to fund a reduction in working time. The company has always resisted calls to reduce the working week.

Leaders of the Transport and General Workers Union and the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union - the largest unions at Ford - also tabled a claim for a job security agreement as part of which management would agree to try and find alternative work where a job became redundant. Management, which has favoured two-year deals in the past, is due to respond to unions next month.

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the TGWU, said Ford workers' pay had slipped behind employees at other companies by as much as 11 per cent despite "massive improvements" in productivity.

Inflation is fuelling an acceleration in pay rises in other parts of industry. Research group Incomes Data Services says well over half of settlements in recent weeks have given rises in the 3 to 4 per cent range.

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Jerusalem bombs fail to stop Albright

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, is to go ahead with her planned Middle East tour next week, despite yesterday's suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

Stressing that the United States would not be diverted from its peace efforts in the region, President Bill Clinton said: "It is clear the perpetrators of this attack intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself. They must not be allowed to succeed."

He again called on Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to "do all it can to create an environment that leaves no doubt that terror will not be tolerated."

Mr Clinton said the bombs, which killed eight people and injured more than 150, made it all the more urgent to revive the peace process and he said this was the message that Mrs Albright would emphasise during her visit. She is due to leave Washington

on Tuesday for her first visit to the region as Secretary of State and her first official visit to Israel.

The decision not to cancel or postpone the visit represents a shift in Washington's tactics. Until recently, US officials had insisted that the Secretary of State would only visit the region when there was likely to be significant progress in the peace process. However, her delay in going to Israel had aroused criticism from Jewish groups, who complained that the administration was starting to distance itself from the region.

Last week, however, in the middle of President Clinton's holiday, the Secretary of State's visit was suddenly announced, even though Mr Ross had returned without apparently identifying any signs of progress in relations between Israel and the Palestinian authorities.

Mr Ross's own visit had been postponed for a month after a suicide bombing in Jerusalem which was similar to the one that occurred yesterday.



A wounded Israeli woman holding her head as she is carried down the Ben Yehuda thoroughfare in central Jerusalem. She was one of the 150 injured in the suicide blast yesterday, which killed eight people, including the three Hamas bombers

Photograph: Reuters

Officially, it was said the visit had been delayed to allow for an appropriate period of mourning in Israel, but it was also considered unlikely that he would be able to bring the two sides any closer together in the wake of the attack.

Although US officials yesterday declined to draw parallels between the two Jerusalem attacks or spec-

ulate on any Arab motive connected with any planned US diplomatic moves, Mr Clinton's unambiguous statement that Mrs Albright would still be setting off for the Middle East sends the clear signal that Washington will not allow its efforts to be frustrated.

This also appears to be Israel's wish. The Israeli ambassador to the

United States gave a television interview shortly after the bomb attacks were reported, saying he hoped the visit would proceed and placing the blame squarely on Mr Arafat. He said the Palestinian leader had not used "his very effective security services" to clamp down on the Hamas grouping.

With a few signs of life shortly be-

fore the last terrorist attack in Jerusalem, the peace process has been virtually moribund since the beginning of the year.

An agreement was reached shortly before Mr Ross's visit that would bring in American observers to monitor Israeli and Palestinian security arrangements. The US also called for accelerated progress towards fulfill-

ing the later stages of the Oslo accords, that would involve discussion of the status of Jerusalem. This followed a proposal along similar lines made by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. It is still not clear how far this indicated progress being made behind the scenes and how far it was window-dressing intended to disguise a stalemate.

How Hamas came to deal in death

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Within minutes of the explosions yesterday in Ben Yehuda in Jerusalem, the Islamic militant organisation Hamas was claiming that its suicide bombers had carried out the attack.

It was the latest in a series of suicide bombings carried out by Hamas, which began in April 1994 when a West Bank Palestinian rammed a car filled with explosives into a crowded bus station in Afula in northern Israel killing eight people.

Hamas, an acronym for Movement of Islamic Resistance, was a latecomer to a pol-

icy of armed struggle against Israel, which it combines with the more covert aim of discrediting Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority.

The movement was set up in 1988 in Gaza by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and six other leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in the first months of the Palestinian Intifada.

It developed a strong, well-financed infrastructure with its own schools, kindergartens, charities, clinics and social services. It aimed to end the Israeli occupation and establish an Islamic state. It wanted to replace the PLO, Mr Arafat's support

Arab Gulf states to finance Hamas. It opposed the PLO's decision to go to the Madrid peace conference in 1991. The movement also set up its own military wing called the Izzedine al-Qassem brigades.

This wing started making guerrilla attacks from 1992. In response Israel expelled 415 fundamentalists, mostly Hamas, to South Lebanon. But Hamas' organisation was not damaged.

The Oslo accords of 1993 might have marginalised Hamas, but they were slowly implemented. Hamas portrayed the first suicide bomb at Afula as retaliation for the massacre by an Israeli settler of 29 Palesti-

nians in Hebron. Hamas has generally been astute in judging the Palestinian political mood. Its long-term aim is to sabotage the peace agreements, but it is tactically agile in its own interests.

The suicide bombs in early 1996 destroyed the last Israeli government. Hamas seemed split between the leadership in Gaza and the leaders abroad, notably in Jordan. The former were distraught at seeing their social organisations closed down; the latter called for more attacks. Hamas is decentralised - Sheikh Yassin has been in an Israeli prison since 1989 - and it is not clear how far the leadership controls different cells.

Ever since Israel started to build a new settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem, Hamas and Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority have started to come together. Mr Arafat publicly embraced its leader, Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, in Gaza, to the rage of Israelis.

An opinion poll in July showed that Hamas has 11 per cent support in Gaza and the West Bank, but the circle of sympathisers is probably larger. It is doubtful if Mr Arafat has the political strength to arrest and hold in prison a thousand or more Hamas militants, which would be the only way to stop their bombing campaign.

Funding inquiry threatens Gore's future

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

Clouds appeared to be gathering over Vice-President Al Gore's political future following a Justice Department decision to institute a formal review of his involvement in possibly illegal fund-raising during last year's presidential election campaign. The review, announced late on Wednesday, sets a 30-day period within which the Attorney General, Janet Reno, must decide whether to appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate the case.

Allegations have been mounting about illegal fund-raising by leading Democrats, up to and including President Bill Clinton. Until this week, however, Mr Gore had resisted pressure to appoint an independent counsel arguing that the evidence was insufficient. Congressional hearings on party funding, which resumed this week, have shown dubious fund-raising by both political parties.

In the past few days, however, evidence came to light about Al Gore's activities suggesting he may not only have broken the law, but tried to dissemble the fact. Newspapers published details of 47 phone calls he made from his office in the White House to solicit funds. The calls had been charged to the White House. Mr Gore had earlier said he "might have" made a few such calls and they had been charged to his credit card. It is against the rules to solicit party funds from federal property because this is seen as using state office for party political purposes.

It also emerged that at least \$150,000 he personally raised went directly into election funds, which are subject to a limit of \$20,000 per person.

A review could have serious implications for Mr Gore, who, until now, has been regarded as virtually guaranteed the presidential nomination in 2000.

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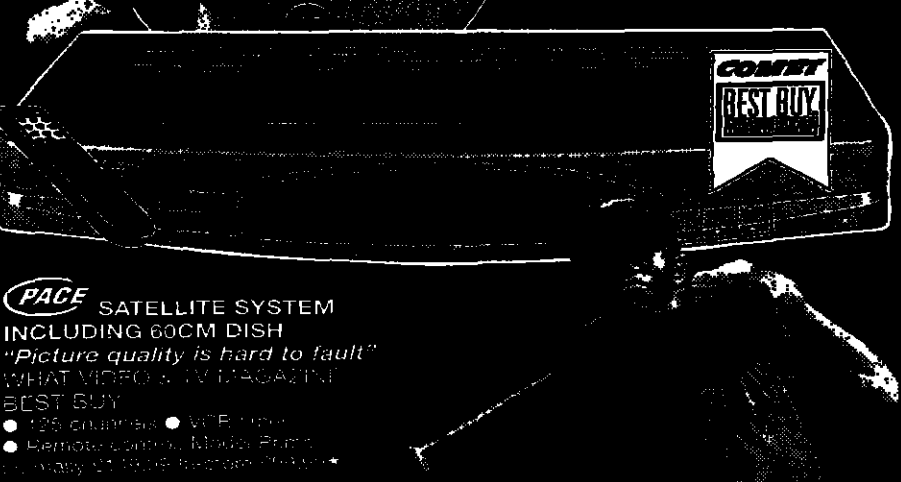
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China finds Hong Kong hard to swallow

Mainlanders think new compatriots are 'stuck up'

Stephen Vines
Guangzhou

According to the ubiquitous posters put up by the Hong Kong government, the former British colony has now returned to the embrace of the motherland. But that does not answer the question of who is running what, particularly in southern China, just across the border.

Hong Kong's influence seems to be all-pervasive here. Most families keep their televisions tuned to Hong Kong channels, restaurants evoke a Hong Kong connection to suggest a better quality of food and service, and Hong Kong fashions, rock stars and all forms of popular culture, are everywhere.

The former British colony accounts for three-quarters of foreign investment in the province. Some 50,000 Hong Kong companies employ around five million workers in the region, far more than the three million workers they employ back home.

Travelling to the provincial capital of Guangzhou from the border opens up a panorama of Hong Kong influence. The highway connecting the two places was built by the brilliant Gordon Wu, a Hong Kong businessman: the factories on ei-

ther side of the road are predominantly Hong Kong run. This proximity and influence is not necessarily translated into affection. The people of Guangdong Province (better known as Canton) often appear to have the same attitude towards their Hong Kong neighbours as wartime Britons had of American soldiers: over-sexed, over-paid and all too often over here.

They recognise the Hongkongers are needed, but that does not necessarily make them welcome, with their flashy Rolex watches, their "second wives" across the border and their know-it-all manner.

At the Rock 'n' Roll Club, in Guangzhou, the epitome of a Hong Kong-style fashionable disco, a young man who calls himself "Jimmy" is dismissive of the Hong Kong people. He uses a Chinese expression to describe them which roughly translates as being "stuck up".

"They think we're rustic people," he complains. But, he asks, "what they do they know, except money?"

Yet in many ways he wants to be like his compatriots. He likes Hong Kong fashions, has purchased a flat and aspires to more or less everything a typical Hongkonger aspires to. It's



Bamboo curtain: While the border between Hong Kong and China remains impenetrable to most capitalism is marching north

Photograph: Magnum

just Hong Kong people he can't stand. He accuses them of lacking knowledge of things Chinese and being too westernised.

These views tend to lurk beneath the surface. In a host of other ways Guangdong and Hong Kong are coming closer together. The linguistic link is crucial. Officially, the whole of China is supposed to speak Pu-

tonghua, "the common people's language". In reality, regional dialects or languages are showing a tenacity for survival which defies the intentions of central planners.

In Guangdong the use of Cantonese has been greatly reinforced by cultural influences coming from Hong Kong. The popular radio stations, trying to

compete with stations from Hong Kong, have switched to Cantonese. Local officials who are supposed to speak only in Putonghua while on duty quickly switch to Cantonese in an attempt to gain public support.

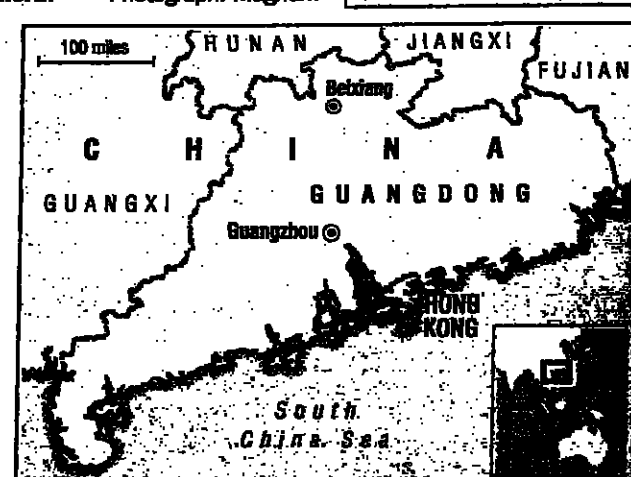
As standards of living improve in Guangdong, the similarity in lifestyle grows by the day. Sometimes it is difficult to

remember that the province is part of a Communist state. But the prosperity which is evident in Guangzhou soon peters out in the northern parts of the province.

Last month there were reports of rioting in Beixiang village, some 150 miles north of the city. Farmers besieged local officials, whom they accused of short-changing them in payments for grain. This was both a reminder of continuing state control over agriculture and the readiness of local people to protest.

While the rest of the country was swept by the 1989 democracy protests, Guangdong more or less kept its head down. The province may be guilty of the "political pollution" which the Communist Party is busy fighting, but it shows few signs of being engaged in "counter-revolutionary activity", a rather more serious matter.

Hong Kong, however, is also the source of counter-revolutionary information and, if the more paranoid Chinese leaders are to be believed, counter-revolutionary activity. Access to the Hong Kong media ensures that Guangdong people are far bet-



ter informed about world and Chinese affairs than the rest of China.

For the time being, this information does not appear to have any damaging impact on the Communist Party's control of the province. But there may be a price to pay. It is hard to reconcile the high level of propaganda about Hong Kong's return to the motherland, and the preservation of its capitalist system, with an insistence that the freedoms and rights accorded to the people of the for-

mer colony should not be extended to the rest of China.

For the time being, double-digit economic growth and enormous improvements in the standard of living are helping to keep subversive thoughts at bay.

However, as the Chinese Communist Party knows all too well, Guangdong has been a hotbed of revolution before. As it grows apart from the rest of the country, with Hong Kong assistance, it may return to its former role.

The iron curtain that is keeping a united nation worlds apart

Stephen Vines

Since 1 July, China's red, five-star flag has flown on both sides of the border between Hong Kong and the mainland state. But the flags may tell one story; the barbed wire fences tell quite another.

Hong Kong's incorporation into the People's Republic of China, emphatically does not mean free movement between the former colony and its new sovereign state.

On the contrary, movement remains tightly controlled, with some 500 Hong Kong policemen and a great deal of sophisticated equipment deployed to keep the border secure against an influx of illegal immigrants from the Chinese mainland.

"This is one country, two systems in practice," says senior inspector Charles Parker, one of the officers responsible for border security, referring to the formula under which the former British colony has been reunited with China.

In theory, it provides for the preservation of Hong Kong's capitalist system, while China retains its allegedly socialist system.

But at the border, the slogan is more concrete: it means the preservation of a 10ft-high, 25-mile long fence topped with two rows of barbed wire. Sensors on the fence alert a central control room if anyone touches it. At night, the entire area basks in a harsh floodlit glare.

Exchanges between the police forces are cordial, yet, despite coming under a single sovereign state, the forces do not conduct joint operations, their officers are not allowed to directly contact their counterparts on the other side of the border and they never stray into each other's territory in pursuit of law breakers.

Equipped with the latest human detection technology and full backing from the Hong Kong and Chinese governments, the police are holding the line against the territory's ul-

timate nightmare: an invasion of poor and desperate Chinese mainlanders.

For its part the Chinese government is also keen to ensure that its people are not "corrupted" or "spiritually polluted" by Hong Kong.

The authorities therefore have a strong interest in keeping China's newest piece of real estate apart from the old properties.

On the Hong Kong side of the border, the last remnants of the territory's farming communities work the land. On the Chinese side, vast steel and glass skyscrapers crowd the new city of Shenzhen. It looks as though the Chinese side is the land of opportunity; but the thousands of desperate illegal immigrants clearly take another view.

Despite the high risks of de-

tection and the likelihood of being detained after arrival, thousands of mainland Chinese still take a gamble and attempt to smuggle themselves into Hong Kong. Some are lured by the tremendous outpouring of propaganda about China's resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong.

Yet they are far from welcome. They face heavy-duty border controls which were intensified during the period of the handover of power.

The land border crossing is mainly for the young and fit. Older and less agile would-be immigrants sometimes try to get in by attaching themselves to the undercarriages of the big trucks which rumble across the border at the rate of some 22,000 per day. Some are seriously injured as they fall from the vehicles.

Illegal immigrants are safer and more likely to succeed if they are smuggled in by sea and the so-called snake heads, who make a living by smuggling Chinese into Hong Kong, tend to prefer this method.

Of the 23,180 illegals who were apprehended for being in Hong Kong last year, less than a quarter were caught at the land border. The rest either escaped detection when they came in or must have arrived by sea. An unknown number escape the dragnet all together.

Yet, while mainland Chinese can only dream of coming to Hong Kong, as many as 200,000 people walk across the border at Lo Wu during weekends, while on weekdays as many as 140,000 make the crossing.

This legal traffic is largely one way, involving Hong Kong residents going to work in China, visiting their so called "second" families or just crossing to take advantage of the cheaper prices for more or less everything in China.

No wonder that the free movement of Hong Kong residents sparks resentment among mainlanders. Chinese citizens are not even allowed into the border town of Shenzhen without a permit.

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international

Malaysia hits out at 'economic saboteurs'

Steve Crawshaw

Malaysia yesterday announced draconian measures against speculators, as the Malaysian ringgit fell to its lowest-ever level against the dollar. One trader talked of "total exodus".

There were suggestions that local speculators may be arrested for economic "sabotage", under the terms of Malaysia's Internal Security Act.

At the same time, a Canadian journalist was sentenced to jail for contempt of court, in connection with an article which caused offence to a senior judge.

The government blamed "economic saboteurs" for the collapse of the ringgit and for the recent heavy falls on the stock market which has lost 40 per cent of its value this year.

The Prime Minister, Mahatir Mohamad, has publicly described George Soros, the best-known player of markets in the world, as a "moron". Blaming foreigners for Malaysia's new economic woes, he complained: "We cannot allow ourselves to be dictated to by external parties."

The government's measures

include limiting ringgit swaps to \$2m to foreign customers, and a programme to buy back stocks from foreigners at market prices instead of at a premium from locals. Mr Mahatir made no bones about the significance of the new measures, saying: "We have decided on retaliation."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was in Malaysia last week on a four-country tour of South East Asia, boasting of the good commercial links between Britain and Malaysia, while insisting, too, on the paramount importance of human rights. He approvingly quoted the fact that Mr Mahatir had talked about feeling "comfortable" with Britain.

But Mr Mahatir and the Malaysians have made it clear in recent days that that "comfortable" relationship can also be accompanied by a snarl. Things are not as bad as during the "Buy British Last" campaign, which Mr Mahatir launched in the 1980s, but this is not an easy partnership.

Mr Cook left Malaysia confident his message had been heard and even accepted. But-

ma, he said, would not be invited to the Asia-Europe Meeting in London in April. Mr Cook said the track record of Burma's regime meant Burmese ministers could not be granted visas.

But Mr Mahatir promptly hit back, saying any discrimination against Burma would be "discrimination against Asean".

Britain is keen to woo Asean (the Association of South-East Asian Nations). A collective snub by Asean, which Malaysia seems to be encouraging, would have disastrous implications for Mr Cook's own credibility.

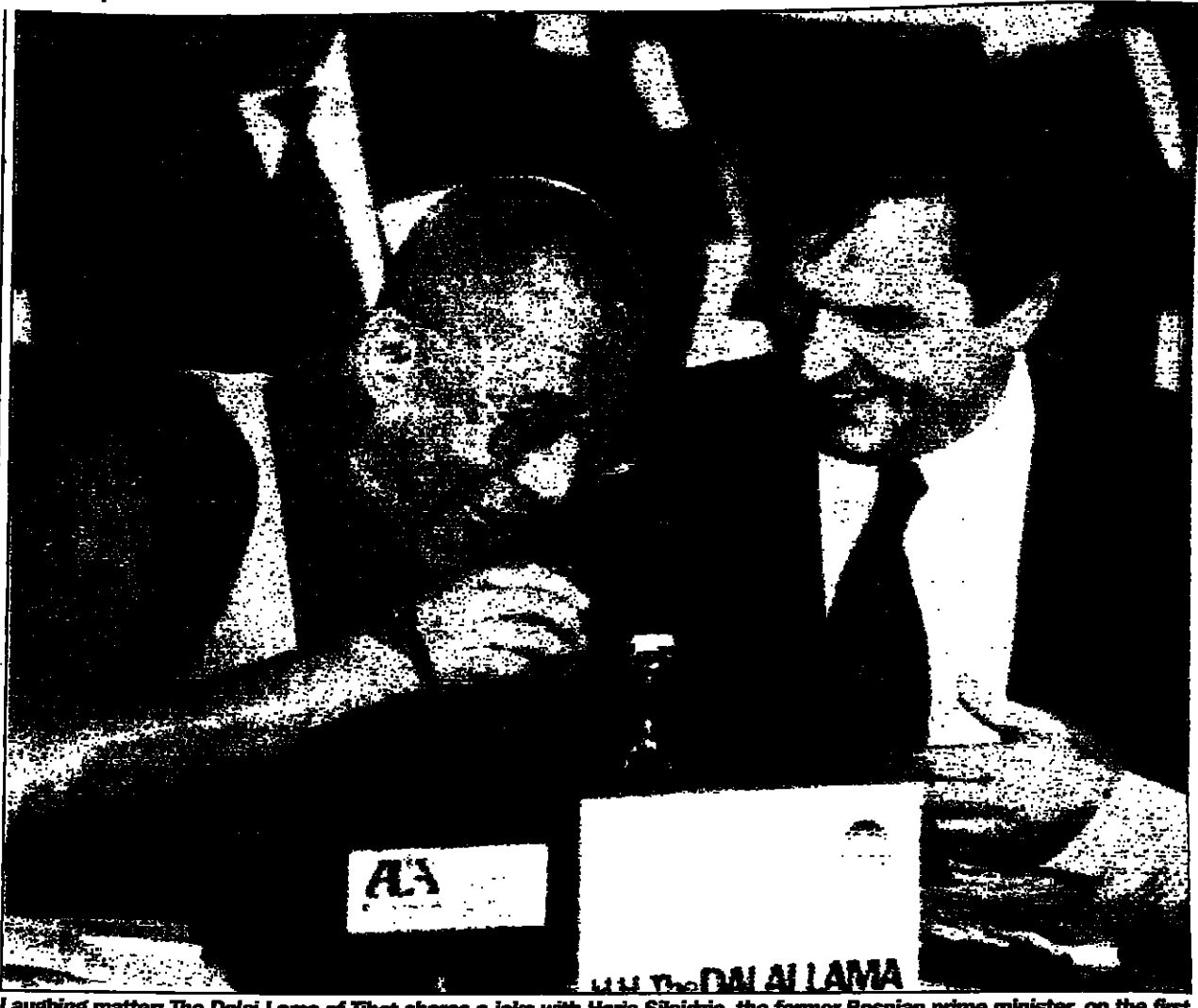
Mr Mahatir had already delivered his first snub while Mr Cook was on his trip to South-East Asia. In a speech in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, Mr Cook emphasised the universality and timelessness of human rights - a coded criticism of his hosts. Mr Mahatir argued recently in favour of modifying the United Nations declaration on human rights, saying that it had been "formulated by superpowers, which did not understand the needs of poor countries". The Malaysian

foreign minister insisted that it was "very difficult to have one common yardstick which is universally applicable".

Murray Hiebert, a Kuala Lumpur-based journalist with the respected *Far Eastern Economic Review*, was yesterday released on bail, after being given a three-month jail sentence for an article entitled "See You in Court". The article referred to a bizarre case in which a judge's wife sued her son's school for dropping him from the school debating team. The *Review* article noted that the boy was the son of a judge, and implied that the case had moved quickly through the courts.

Mr Hiebert's lawyer said his client was a foreigner, and that writing about local laws was not an easy task. He also said the *Review* had offered to correct "errors" in Mr Hiebert's article.

Malaysia has been one of the most envied of the Asian "tiger economies" in recent years. Economic growth has averaged more than 8 per cent over the past decade and its GDP per capita is now higher than Britain's.



Laughing matter: The Dalai Lama of Tibet shares a joke with Haris Silajdzic, the former Bosnian prime minister, on the first day of the Forum 2000 conference in Prague organised by the Czech president Vaclav Havel. Photograph: Petr Josek

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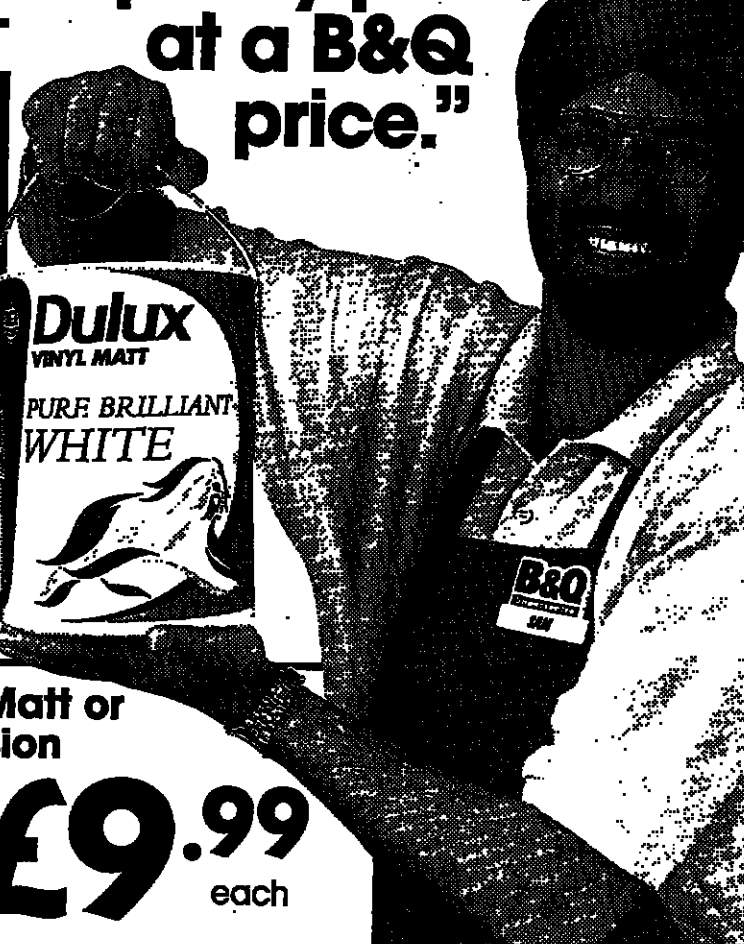
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Embattled Kohl seeks religious relief for his ills

Imre Karacs

Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and senior members of his government retreated to a Benedictine monastery in Bavaria yesterday, seeking a brief moment of tranquillity away from the battles of the Cabinet.

After a month of endless rows, Mr Kohl entered the sanctum demonstratively hugging his turbulent Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, who had brought the government to the brink of collapse by suggesting that its members had run out of steam.

On the Chancellor's other side walked Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, who seems determined to sink Mr Kohl's most cherished project, European monetary union.

Mr Waigel heads the Christian Social Union, the party to which Mr Stoiber belongs.

The CSU is in effect the Bavarian sister party of Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats, forming a joint bloc in the Bun-

destag in Bonn. But there are similarities and.

Despite their alliance, the three men are pulling in three directions, to the great delight of the opposition.

Mr Stoiber is trying to out Mr Waigel and at the same time scupper monetary union.

Mr Waigel is thus compelled to protect his Bavarian back by trying to be as tough with Mr Kohl as his rival in Munich.

The result is confusion, strife, and the lowest poll rating for the Chancellor in years.

If elections were held tomorrow, the Social Democrats and Greens would blow Europe's longest-serving leader out of the water.

But elections are a year away, and the Big Three voiced their determination yesterday to put an end to their squabbles and start afresh.

"I hope Saint Benedict will help us to work more and talk so much," prayed Bernhard Vogel, a Christian Democrat grandee from Thuringia. Amen to that.

significant shorts

Comoros claims its has crushed island revolt

The Comoros government said its forces had recaptured all strategic points on the secessionist Anjouan island. They met fierce resistance, said witnesses, though a French officer described the fighting as low-key. "This is not the Battle of Stalingrad and the intensity of combat is pretty low," Mohammed Taki's government launched an assault on Anjouan on Wednesday. Reuters - Moroni

Fireman's burning ambition

A German fireman admitted lighting fires because he was bored and enjoyed being praised for helping put them out. The volunteer firefighter was arrested and charged with arson for causing millions of dollars' damage. Authorities were investigating 70 fires started north of Düsseldorf during the past three years. Reuters - Düsseldorf

Bus crash leaves 33 dead

Thirty-three people were killed and 40 injured when two buses collided in north-west Turkey on the main highway between Ankara and Istanbul. Reuters - Ankara

Dim view in disputed territory

Japanese right-wingers said a homemade lighthouse which sparked a row over ownership of the Senkaku islands, claimed by China, Taiwan and Japan, had mysteriously been pulled down. It coincided with a visit by the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, to China, where the dispute will be discussed. Reuters - Tokyo

Dead weird

Turkey has dropped a plan to distribute body-bags to people to assure them their bodies would not be left lying in the street after any fatal accident. The plan was ridiculed by the press and politicians. Reuters - Ankara

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Muscovites paint the town red to mark 850 years of glory

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Moscow will today launch into a three-day extravaganza to prove that it is no longer the citadel of world Communism but a vibrant commercial capital, attractive to tourists and international investors alike. The events, as lavish as the most grandiose of Soviet-era festivities, officially mark the city's 850th anniversary, but they have as much to do with the ambitions of its mayor, Yuri Luzhkov.

Ignoring the trifling fact that no one knows the precise date of Moscow's founding (1147 is the first time it is mentioned in manuscripts), Mr Luzhkov has tirelessly hectoring the capital into mounting the biggest facelift in its history. Last night, workmen were still frantically painting and scrubbing crumbling, grimy-covered buildings. Patriotic posters, Russian flags, and "I Love You Moscow" banners festoon every major street.

As he bestrides the international stage, the mayor - who has invited no fewer than 55 foreign delegations to his show - wants no unsightly scenes to mar

his performance. Like Mr Luzhkov himself - who, at 60, still expects his staff to play football with him before work - the programme is loud, flamboyant, and has a strong nationalist and Russian Orthodox streak.

A fire-breathing mechanical dragon, controlled from a cockpit in its head, will perform a Russian folk tale in Red Square. There will be fireworks, parades, ballet, choirs, speeches and a performance by Luciano Pavarotti. In the giant Olympic stadium, a laser light show will produce a giant vision of the Virgin Mary, above a flock of live swans.

All this is vintage Luzhkov. In the last five years, the former party apparatchik has turned himself into a big city boss. Although he routinely denies it, few doubt he is laying the turf for a run at the presidency when Mr Yeltsin stands down.

History has not always been kind to Moscow over the centuries. It has been sacked by Mongols, demoted by Peter the Great, occupied by Napoleon, and almost invaded by Hitler. But now its fortunes have taken an upward turn.

The outskirts consist of the



Colourful past: Red Square, Moscow, March 1917. The Russian capital has an 850-year history that includes invasion, destruction and revolution

same unrelenting wall of semi-detached, filthy high-rise apartment blocks that ringed the city in Soviet times. But hundreds of boutiques, offices, casinos and cafés have arrived in the centre, driving office rents above those of New York. This is good news for Mr Luzhkov, the city still has a stake in almost all of Moscow's real estate.

These days, the skyline is dominated by the gold-plated dome of Mr Luzhkov's pet project, the rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, which was blown up by Stalin.

The mayor's arm-twisting skills ensured that businesses - even weapons makers -

ploughed millions into the project, which was built at a break-neck speed. So, too, was another of his proud boasts: the new three-storey underground shopping mall beside the Kremlin walls, soon to be filled by chic Western franchises.

Not everyone approves. Little love is lost between Moscow and the provinces. Although only 7 per cent of the 147 million Russians live in the capital, it holds 80 per cent of its wealth and almost two-thirds of its foreign investment.

Provincial Russians blame the centre for a multitude of sins, from failing to pay wages to ignoring the collapse of their industries. Although a third of the

money spent on the 850th jubilee is from private sponsors, the rest is not.

Television pictures of Moscow going on a self-con-

gratulatory binge with public money will not bring much delight. Some Muscovites have also complained, pointing out that the city - where the average pay

packet is less than \$260 (£153) a month - has terrible medical facilities, pot-holed roads, terrible crime and an army of homeless.

"This is all too Soviet for me," said Irina Mikhleva, a media researcher. "Why don't they spend the money on rebuilding the sewage system?"

Eight centuries of the 'wet' city

1147 (ish): Small outpost established on the banks of the marshy Moscow River. The name derives from an old Slavic word meaning "wet".

1223: The Mongols invade. They dominate Russia for the next 250 years and, in 1382, burn Moscow to the ground.

1325-40: The reign of "Moneybags" Ivan I. He chooses to live in Moscow, and the seat of the Orthodox Church moves west from Vladimir to the city.

1370: The Lithuanians lay siege to Moscow, but are unable to scale the recently strengthened Kremlin walls.

1453: Constantinople falls to the Turks, releasing the Russian Orthodox Church from Byzantine control. Within a decade, Ivan the Great declares Moscow the "Third Rome", the new centre of Orthodoxy.

1613: Mikhail Romanov is elected Tsar, beginning the Romanov dynasty.

1712: Peter the Great, who hated the place, moves the capital to St Petersburg.

1812: Napoleon's troops invade. Most of the city is destroyed by fire when the French beat a retreat.

1825: The Bolshoi Theatre opens.

1918: Lenin restores the city's status as capital, after more than two centuries. This time, it was at the heart of the world's first Communist state, the Soviet Union.

1941: Hitler's troops reach the edge of the city, but fail to take it.

1991: Tanks on the streets, after a failed coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

1993: More tanks, after Boris Yeltsin sends in troops to bombard parliament.

1997: The 850th anniversary.



Images of a city:
A woman (above) with a banner bearing the likeness of Vladimir Lenin, the founder of Soviet Russia, whose mummified body lies in state in Moscow. Lenin restored Moscow as the capital in 1918, two centuries after it was usurped by Peter the Great, who loathed the place and moved the seat of government to St Petersburg in 1712. St Basil's Cathedral (left) symbolises the Russian Orthodox Church which has revived following the fall of Communism and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

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Viktor Frankl

The Austrian psychiatrist and psychotherapist Viktor Frankl is best known for tracing suffering to a failure to find meaning and a sense of responsibility in life. He once said that the meaning of his life was to help others find the meaning in theirs. *The Will to Meaning* (1969) is the title of one of his books.

He was born in Vienna in 1905. The house he first lived in was diagonally across the street from where the psychotherapist Alfred Adler had lived for a time. Thus, Frankl muscled, the "birth" of his logotherapy, the "third Viennese school of psychotherapy", Freud's being the first, took place near that of the "second" Viennese school - Adler's "individual psychology".

Frankl's father worked his way up from parliamentary stenographer to director at the Austrian Ministry of Social Affairs. He was to die in the Theresienstadt concentration camp from starvation and pneumonia. Frankl's mother was descended from a Prague patrician family. Among her ancestors was the 12th-century Jewish Bible and Talmud scholar Rashi, and Rabbi Löw of Prague. She was gassed at Auschwitz.

Frankl wrote in his *Recollections: an autobiography* (1995) that he decided to become a physician at three years old. At about the age of four he was "stunned by the unexpected thought" that one day he would have to die. What troubled him then, as it did throughout his life, was not the fear of dying, but the "question of whether the transitory nature of life might destroy its meaning". Eventually he decided that it did not because "nothing from the past is irrevocably lost... Whatever we have done, or created, whatever we have learned and experienced - all of this we have delivered into the past. There



Frankl: "logotherapy"

is no one, and nothing, that can undo it."

He was still in high school when his childhood wish to become a physician became more focused and, under the influence of psychoanalysis, he became interested in psychiatry. He saw his talent as a psychiatrist as related to a "gift" he had as a cartoonist. As a cartoonist, he said he could "spot the weaknesses" in a person. But as a psychiatrist, or "rather as a psychotherapist", he could see "beyond the actual weaknesses" and "recognise intuitively some possibilities for overcoming those weaknesses". He could see the "potential for discovering a meaning" behind someone's misery, and thus turn "an apparently meaningless suffering into a genuine human achievement". He believed that this was the core of his approach to psychotherapy, which came to be known as logotherapy.

Still in his teens, Frankl became interested in philosophy and started to lecture on the meaning of life. He formed a relationship with Alfred Adler, but fell out with him within a few years. Aside from his medical degree, Frankl also had a doctorate in philosophy. His "dear colleagues in Vienna", he com-

mented, "instead of saying Frankl is twice a doctor", would say "he is only half a physician".

He began his private practice of psychiatry and neurology in 1937, and soon became the chief of neurology at the Rothschild Hospital in Vienna. He waited for years until his quota number to emigrate to the United States came up. Finally, shortly before Pearl Harbor, the American Consulate gave him a visa. He knew his parents were fated to be deported to a concentration camp. The visa applied only to him. Should he leave them behind? He took a walk and awaited a "hint from heaven". At home his father had picked a piece of marble from the rubble of a burnt-down synagogue. On it was chiselled part of the Ten Commandments. In particular a letter that could have come only from the commandment "Honour thy father and thy mother". Frankl decided to let the visa lapse.

While still in Vienna he met his first wife, Tilly Grosser. They were among the last Viennese Jews to get permission from the National Socialist authorities to wed. Jews were forbidden to have children even if they were married, and Tilly had to sacrifice the foetus she was carrying. Frankl's book *The Unheard Cry For Meaning* (1978) was dedicated to their unborn child.

Nine months after marrying, in 1942, they were at the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Tilly had a two-year exemption from transfer to Auschwitz as she was working in a munitions factory, which was important to the war effort. However, Viktor was called up for "Transport East" - which they knew meant Auschwitz. He tried to persuade her not to join his transport. However, without his knowledge she volunteered. She went on the train with him to Auschwitz - and died there.

At Auschwitz, Dr Joseph Mengele selected him for the left queue, headed for the gas chambers. However, Frankl recognised no one in that queue. He saw a few of his young colleagues in the right queue, and switched to it behind Mengele's back. At the time he did not know he had saved his life.

In the camp he survived a typhus infection. He came to believe that those inmates who "were oriented toward the future, toward a meaning waiting to be fulfilled" were more likely to survive. He believed he owed his own survival in part to his resolve to reconstruct a manuscript he had written before Auschwitz, and lost there - a book he later called *The Doctor and the Soul* (1945).

He spent a total of three years in four camps. At a lecture after the war he said: "I repeatedly tried to distance myself from the misery that surrounded me by externalising it. I remember marching one morning from the camp to the work site, hardly able to bear the hunger, the cold, and pain of my frozen and festering feet, so swollen... My situation seemed bleak, even hopeless. Then I imagined that I stood at a lectern in a large, beautiful, warm and bright hall. I was about to give a lecture to an interested audience on 'Psychotherapeutic Experiences in a Concentration Camp' (the actual title I later used...)." In the imaginary lecture I reported the things I am now living through. Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, at that moment I could not dare to hope that some day it was to be my good fortune to actually give such a lecture.

As well as losing his parents and wife in the camps, he also lost a brother in Auschwitz. A sister, who had gone to Australia, survived. After the war he served for 25 years as head of a neurology department at the Viennese Polyclinic Hospital.

He dictated his best-known book, *Man's Search for Meaning* (1945), in nine days, and published it at first anonymously. Translated into 24 lan-

guages, it distils Frankl's approach to psychotherapy. He wrote that he had wanted to "convey to the reader by way of concrete example that life holds a potential meaning under any conditions, even the most miserable ones". He wished to demonstrate the point in a situation "as extreme as that in a concentration camp". If he wrote down what he had gone through "it might be helpful to people who are prone to despair". He believed that life holds a potential meaning under any conditions.

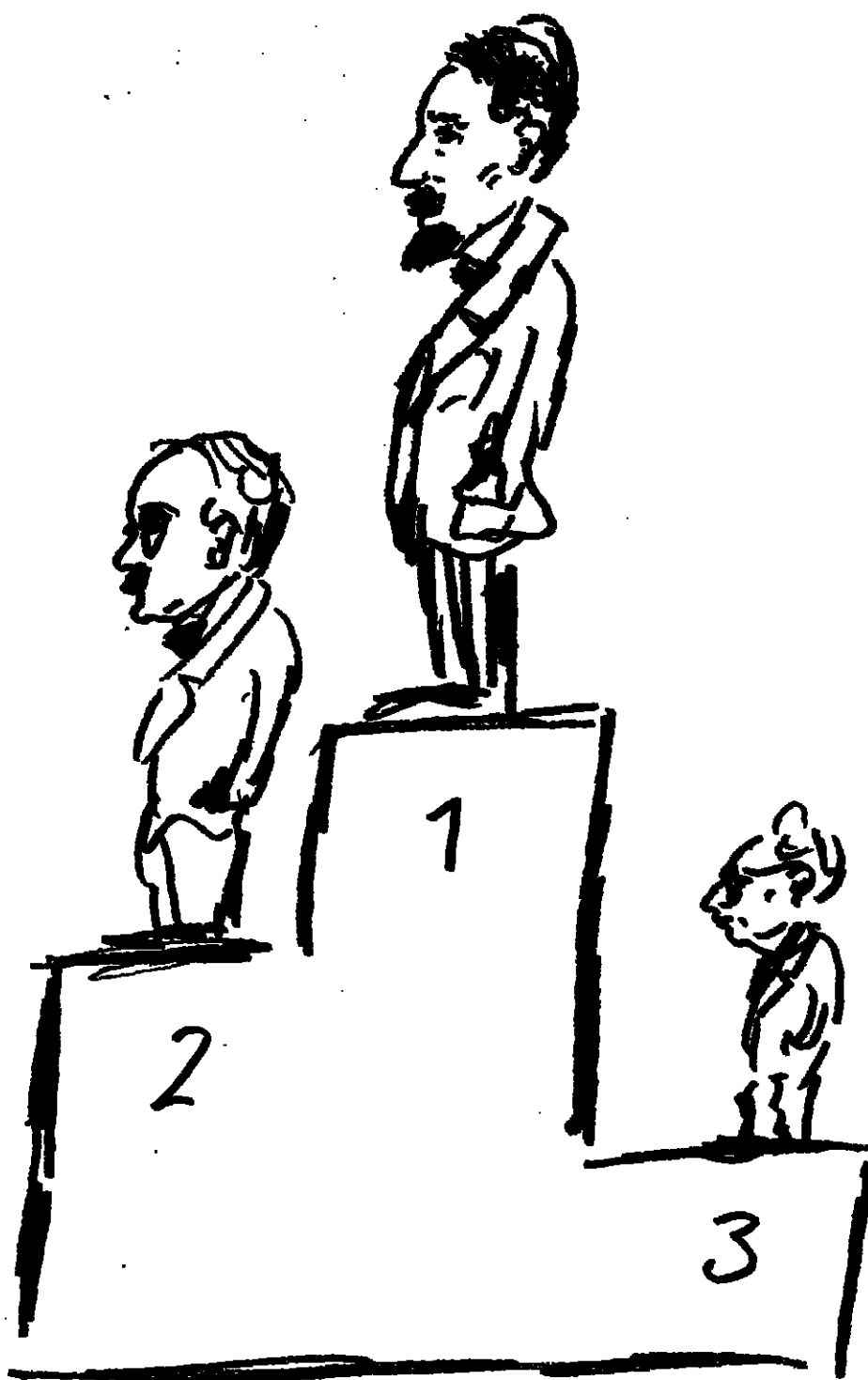
One of his logotherapeutic maxims is "Live as if you were already living for the second time, and as if you had made the mistakes you are about to make now". This "fictive autobiographical view of one's life" is meant to heighten one's sense of responsibility.

He admonished his students: "Don't aim at success - the more you aim at it and make it a target, the more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued. It must ensue, and it does so only as the unintended side effect of one's personal dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the by-product of surrender to a person other than oneself..."

While being forced to march in a concentration camp, a thought "transfixed" him. He "saw the truth as it is set into song by many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth - that love is the ultimate and highest goal to which man can aspire." Then he "grasped the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: the salvation of man is through love and in love".

Morton Schatzman

Viktor Emil Frankl, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, born Vienna 26 March 1905; married 1941 Tilly Grosser (deceased); 1947 Eleonore Schindler (one daughter); died Vienna 2 September 1997.



Frankl's cartoon of the three schools of Viennese psychotherapy: Freud (1), Adler (2) and Frankl (3).

Diana Kirkbride-Helbaek



Grande dame: Kirkbride-Helbaek outside her tent at Beidha

Diana Kirkbride-Helbaek was one of the last surviving *grandes dames* amongst British archaeologists who explored the Middle East in the early post-colonial years. Her death marks almost the end of a generation of formidable women whose contributions to the archaeology of western Asia were milestones. Her remarkable career places her among such luminaries as Dorothy Garrod and Dame Kathleen Kenyon, whose discoveries were among the most important in archaeological scholarship at mid-century.

Diana Kirkbride grew up in Southampton and Norfolk and attended Wycombe Abbey School in High Wycombe. During the Second World War, she served in the Women's Royal Naval Service; some of that time was spent in Southampton, where the WRNS base included a small library. A classicist at heart, she decided to make archaeology her life's work. Leaving a first degree, but encouraged from it because of her war service, she pursued full-time study of Egyptology at University College London, obtaining a postgraduate diploma in 1950.

Yet it was western Asiatic archaeology which would emerge as her *metier*. She studied Mesopotamian archaeology under Sir Max Mallowan and Palestinian archaeology under Dame Kathleen Kenyon at the Institute of Archaeology, which was then an independent institution unrelated to University College. Mallowan and Kenyon became influential mentors.

After only one year of study in Egypt on a small grant, and a brief flirtation with Assyrian archaeology in 1951, Kirkbride went to work as a site supervisor at Kenyon's excavation of Jericho. She remained a key member of the Jericho project from 1952 to 1955, having been charged with responsibility for the excavation of the many tombs found there.

At the time, the Jericho project was a benchmark for controlled stratigraphic excavation in Palestine (a region which Sir Mortimer Wheeler had once called "the land of archaeological sin"). Jericho launched the careers of a generation of British archaeologists who dispersed across western Asia to explore other regions and other problems. Kirkbride looked eastward.

In 1953, she formed a crucial alliance with the then director of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, Gerald Lankester Harding, who took her on as a staff member. With Lankester Harding's guidance, she began a series of important field projects in Jordan. Among the first was what she would later say was her proudest achievement: the restoration of the South Theatre at Roman Jerash. It was a stunning task for an archaeologist with only a few years of experience.

Months of work ensued, during which time Kirkbride oversaw the construction of ramps, scaffolding, the cleaning of massive rubble from passageways and the reconstruction of columns and amphitheatre

seats. Today the restored theatre is a central tourist attraction of Jordan and an annual arts festival is held there.

In 1956 her attention turned to the Petra region of southern Jordan. She excavated at Petra itself but soon began to explore the Palaeolithic and Neolithic sites in the area. In the 1950s, the early prehistory of southern Jordan was *terra incognita*, and indeed most of the archaeology of the region (apart from Petra itself) was an unmapped landscape. Kirkbride's discoveries in the area began with the excavation of a small late Palaeolithic rock shelter called Wadi Madamagh.

Not far from the shelter and only a few miles from Petra she discovered a small low ruin of Neolithic remains. The name of the site was Beidha. In 1958, with the backing of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, she began to excavate and continued to do so until 1967. During this period she often spent many months alone in Petra, save for the Bedouin, who had become trusted friends (and who still speak of her fondly to any archaeologists passing through).

The excavation of Beidha caused great excitement in the world of western Asiatic prehistory in the 1960s, for several reasons. Beidha was revealed as a small but impressive Neolithic village of the late eighth and early seventh millennia BC, in an arid setting of marginal rainfall and modest sources of permanent water. It was a first look at what was

called at the time a "desert Neolithic" phenomenon.

Kirkbride's excavation (unlike Kenyon's) emphasised broad exposures and recovery of as much of the village layout as possible. This provided scholars with a window on how a Neolithic village looked as a whole; more crucially, it permitted observation of variations between Neolithic houses, including household "workshops" seemingly specialised in the production of beads and other crafts. Finally, Beidha contained a remarkable sequence of superimposed levels which gave the best evidence yet of how Neolithic vernacular architecture developed.

Such observations were made possible by Kirkbride's excavation of more than 70 per cent of the site, a sharp contrast to Kenyon's approach, which emphasised very fine stratigraphic control but in much smaller trenches, thus providing little information on village layout. It is a balancing act familiar to all archaeologists, but in certain respects time has been kinder to Kirkbride's broad area excavation approach, provided the tight stratigraphic controls can be maintained.

One member of the Beidha field team was a Danish archaeobotanist named Hans Helbaek, a scholar who had already begun a lifelong project of the study of plant domestication in western Asia. At the end of the 1960s, Helbaek and Kirkbride were married. At about the same time, Kirkbride was appointed Director of the

British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

From her new base in Baghdad, she began a new series of explorations in northern Mesopotamia, which resulted in important discoveries at another Neolithic site, this one called Umm Dabaghiyah. Here Kirkbride-Helbaek exposed an enigmatic but extensive series of small cellular structures which may have served as storage facilities for a herding population, or, as she believed, a hunting group.

In the late 1970s, she left the Middle East to live in Denmark. By then she had lived in Jordan for almost 20 years and conducted excavations and surveys in Lebanon, Cyprus and Turkey. Among many honours she received in recognition of her work were Oxford University's Gerald Avery Wainwright Fellowship in Near Eastern Archaeology and the Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries.

Even after the death of her husband in the late 1970s and after Diana Kirkbride-Helbaek herself had suffered a stroke, she continued to conduct fieldwork. In 1983 she returned to Beidha for one more season of excavations. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, despite increasing problems with her health, she continued to work, collaborating with younger scholars on the final publications on Beidha and Umm Dabaghiyah and planning new excavations in Wadi Rumm.

On frequent visits to London, she held court in the lounge of the University Women's Club in

Mayfair, where, over drinks and *hors d'oeuvres*, she entertained colleagues and friends with news, gossip, amusing stories and arguments about the Neolithic.

The plans for excavation of a Nabataean temple in Wadi Rumm were a central theme of those years. She had written to a major funding body asking for a grant to begin the excavations. The grant body wrote back that, in view of her advanced years and her health, she would be required to take out additional insurance providing for special transport in the event that she should become seriously ill or die whilst in the field.

Quaking with laughter, she recounted this tale with the observation that the reviewers were simply too young and inexperienced to evaluate properly either the application or her stamina.

In 1988, several of us accompanied her to the Jerash arts festival, where a performance of *Rigoletto* was staged in the South Theatre. She had not been back to the theatre in years and had never seen a play or an opera performed in it. As dusk fell, and the music rose, she shifted in her seat and looked up and around at the setting. Quietly, and almost to herself, she said: "Restored, and now in use. Who would have thought it could ever happen?"

Katherine L. Wright

Diana Kirkbride, archaeologist, born 22 October 1915; married Hans Helbaek (deceased); died Aarhus, Denmark 13 August 1997.

Noel Henderson

Noel Henderson represented what now seems a better, more golden era for the game of rugby in Ireland. Outside his playing career he left an indelible mark on rugby as a selector and administrator.

He will perhaps be best remembered for his role in the 9-0 win over Australia at Lansdowne Road in January 1959, a landmark victory in that it constituted Ireland's first win over a touring international side from the southern hemisphere. Taking a pass from Davy He-

witt on the half-way line, and with all of Ireland willing him on, Henderson completed a famous try which sealed Ireland's win.

Henderson was universally regarded within the game as one of its most personable characters. Forever in a good mood, friendly, approachable and with a ready wit, he was one of the dominant personalities in Irish rugby in the last half-century.

He was educated at Foyle College in Derry, and at Queen's University, Belfast, where his tal-

ent as a strong-running, hard-tackling centre outside of Jackie Kyle first came to prominence. Kyle was a lifelong friend, and Henderson would subsequently marry his sister, Betty, herself a distinguished Irish international hockey player.

Henderson's international rugby career began before his 21st birthday, in February 1949, with Ireland's 13-3 win over Scotland at Murrayfield. He had broken into what was probably Ireland's greatest side ever, for the ensuing 5-0 win over Wales

in St Helen's Swansea, a fortnight later, enabled Ireland to retain both the Triple Crown and the championship.

Despite being restricted to just one appearance in the 1950 Five Nations Championship, Henderson was chosen for the subsequent Lions tour of Australia and New Zealand later that summer, under Karl Mullen. He played in the third test against New Zealand on the wing.

He was a fixture on the 1951 Irish side that again won the

championship, only being denied another Triple Crown and Grand Slam by a 3-3 draw with Wales in Cardiff. Henderson's contribution to that campaign was crucial for he scored drop goals in both the 9-8 win over France in Dublin and the 6-5 win over Scotland at Murrayfield.

A prolific scorer, his Irish career ultimately spanned 11 years, and 40 caps. He eventually became the team's captain against Scotland in 1956, whereupon he led the side for the next two seasons. The 1958-59 sea-

son was his denouement on the international stage, when he passed on the captaincy of the side to Ronnie Dawson and switched to full-back.

He continued to play for NIFC, also alongside Kyle, whom he joined from Queen's, and served as both player and administrator captaining the club and later becoming its president. He also became NIFC's representative on the Ulster branch, where he served a term as President.

Henderson was both an Ul-

ster and Irish selector, and after more than a decade on the IRFU progressed to serve as the Union's president as well. But he was no mere bureaucrat, and was renowned for his tremendous voice. A noted party piece was his version of "The Glens of Antrim".

Gerry Thornley

Noel Joseph Henderson, rugby player and administrator, born 10 August 1928; married Betty Kyle (four daughters); died 27 August 1997.



Henderson: personable Photograph: Hutton Getty

DEATHS

GOSNEY: Barbara Wilby of Didsbury, Manchester, died on 1 September, following a long illness. She was 85. Burial on Wednesday 10 September at Southamptons Crematorium at 3.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the British Lung Foundation c/o R. Halkin & Son, 185 Long Lane, Holbury, Hampshire.

VANDERBILT: Rosemary, died suddenly but peacefully on 30 August 1997, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Rosemary was 84. Burial on 1 September at 11.30am followed by a service at St Mary's Church, Weymouth, Dorset. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the British Lung Foundation c/o R. Halkin & Son, 185 Long Lane, Holbury, Hampshire.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

Announcements for Births, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Weddings, Anniversaries, In Memoriam should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephone 0171-293 2811 or faxed on 0171-293 2810, and are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER: Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). Please include a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Lord Alexander of Woodon, QC, chairman, National Westminster Bank; 61: Mr Malcolm Allison, football manager; 70: Miss Meg Beresford, former general secretary, CND; 60: Mr Johnny Briggs, actor; 62: Mr Dick Clement, film director and scriptwriter; 60: Miss Tracy Edwards, yachtswoman; 33: Sir Robin Fearn, former ambassador to Spain; 63: Dr David Pusey, Vice-Chancellor, Greenwich University; 34: Mr David Graham, former Chief Constable, Cheshire; 64: Dame Elizabeth Hedley-Miller, former senior civil servant; 74: Professor Julian Hunt, chief executive, Meteorological Office; 56: Mr Michael Lees, actor; 70: Sir Francis Lloyd, former colonial ad-

ministrator; 81: Mr Kevin McNamara MP; 63: Sir John Munnery, a Lord Justice of Appeal; 59: Mr Bob Newhart, actor; 68: Lord Pilkington of Okeford, Chairman, Broadcasting Complaints Commission; 64: Miss Jean Rankine, Deputy Director, British Museum; 36: Mr Al Stewart, rock singer and songwriter; 72: Mr George Tremlett, author and book-seller; 58: Mr Paul A. Valcher, former chairman, American Federal Reserve Board; 70: Miss Rachel Welch, actress; 57: Professor Sir Denis Wilkinson, nuclear physicist; 75:

Anniversaries

Birth: Louis XIV, the "Sun King" of France, 1638; Johann Christian

Bach, composer, 1735; Robert Ferguson, vernacular poet, 1750; Caspar David Friedrich, painter, 1774; Giacomo Meyerbeer (Jakob Liebmann Beer), composer, 1791; Christian Louis Heinrich Köhler, composer, 1820; John Warden, cricketer and cricket records compiler, 1826; Jesse Watson James, outlaw, 1847; Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, president of India, 1888; Danny Francis Zandek, film producer, 1902; Arthur Koestler, author, 1905; John Cage, composer and pianist, 1912; Deaths: Pieter Bruegel the Elder, painter, 1569; Charles-Pierre Péguy, poet, killed in action 1914; Op Capt Sir Douglas Robert Stewart Bader, pilot, 1982. On this day the first Continental Congress in America opened

at Philadelphia, 1774; Malta was surrendered to the British by the French after Nelson's fleet had blockaded them, 1800; the US declared its neutrality in the Second World War, 1939; Brussels was liberated by the Allies, 1944; terrorists of the Arab Black September group killed 11 Israelis at the Olympic Games in Germany, 1972. Today is the Feast Day of St Berninus, St Genevieve of Leon, St Laurence Guisard and Saints Urban and Theodore and their Companions.

English-Speaking Union

Mr George Robertson MP, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday delivered the sixth in a series of lectures

entitled "Furthering International Understanding". He spoke on "Building European Security" in the Locarno Room at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union, was in the chair. Sir Geoffrey Pattle also spoke.

Lectures

National Gallery: Jacqueline Ansell, "18th Century France (1): Fragonard. Psyche showing her Sisters her Gifts from Cupid". 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Vicky Woolford, "British Fashion and Style, 1950s and 1960s", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Clement Page,

"Elm-orthy Kelly's Colour: the transfiguration of space and mind", 1pm.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.24pm. United Synagogue: 0181-343 8908. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-362 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2572. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1826.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Three days to rescue the reformers' hopes

Normal business will resume, officially, on Monday. But politicians, if they are wise, will be chary. This week's highly-strung public mood may linger. People may find it hard to stomach too swift a return to the partisan, divisive grind. Unifying, healing speech may be at a premium, with the tabloids desperately eager to leap upon breakers of their partisan definitions of peace. Might that mean the unionist tide will run more strongly north of the English border and the Welsh show themselves no more enthusiastic about national political self-expression than they were when last consulted 20 years ago?

Even though it has redoubtable Liberal and nationalist allies in both Scotland and Wales, it is of course Labour which is the principal devolutionist party. The Government thus has most to lose by the failure of the campaigns which are this week in suspension – and failure must be taken to include a low turnout. Its leading lights will, doubtless, be on their guard. Perhaps the vehemence of Donald Dewar's opposition to Scotland's football game taking place on Saturday had to do with his sense of having to tread a very fine line. Labour seems at pains to say that loyalty (at least of the Diana variant) does not forbid devolution.

But the death of the Princess has cost Mr Dewar and his colleagues quite a bit, and more than just time on the

campaign trail. The momentum that was meant to build up from mid-August (when the Scottish schools went back) was lost. The devolutionists have barely three days' campaigning before Scotland votes next Thursday and that against a background of growing anti-devolution sentiment, at least as registered in the polls. The odds are mounting in favour of some significant embarrassment for Labour, either in terms of a low turnout, or even a vote against the second, tax-raising, proposition. It seems likely that Labour will win its vote a week later in Wales, but possibly on a turnout which casts doubt on the desire of the Welsh for significant constitutional change.

It is worth rehearsing, briefly, why these votes matter. It is evident the people living in Scotland and Wales (a plural bunch, let's not forget – not all Scottish residents are Scots and some of the inhabitants of Cardiff speak Chinese) are being offered an opportunity not just to reflect upon governance but to alter it to suit them. The occasion matters to the population of England, too.

Scottish devolution bulked large in the Labour manifesto. A yes-no vote in Scotland, punctures Blairite rhetoric and demonstrates the misalignment of Labour Party opinion. A check to constitutional reform here could severely reduce the time and energy the Government would be prepared to put into other commitments – on proportional



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representation, on House of Lords and parliamentary reform. The case, among other things, for more local self-government in England (including London) could be vitiated: if Scottish and Welsh voters proved apathetic or antagonistic, could Labour trust Londoners to turn out in their droves to reform the governance of the capital?

Yet if Scottish devolution matters so much to the fate of this government, the Labour leadership turns out to have been lackadaisical. The campaign for a yes-yes vote started late and unpropitiously. Paisley – the report by Labour's chief whip, Nick Brown, was peculiarly

ill-timed – gave the enemies of devolution an apt slogan, and an effective question: why should the machine which brought you the murky local and constituency dealings of west central Scotland behave differently when its spoils also included seats in an Edinburgh assembly? Labour's paladins, Messrs Mandelson and Prescott, arrived late and ineffectually. Mr Blair, so blessed by his personal opinion poll rating, has so far chosen not to sprinkle his charisma across the borders of England.

Cynics say Labour leaders would privately be quite content with a yes-no vote. It would, *inter alia*, stop awkward

questions being raised about the Barnett formula, under which Scotland ends up with extra public spending per head. It would please the constitutional conservatives who through the Cabinet. But it would also undermine one of the Government's stalwarts, Donald Dewar. He has hardly had a faultless innings. Labour's campaign alliance with the Scottish National Party is dangerous – as risky as any connection with ultras who will never settle to the real business of politics, which is negotiation and untidy compromise.

Mr Dewar seems to have been taken by surprise by the rejectionist sentiments of the Scottish Confederation of British Industry and the Bank of Scotland governor, Sir Bruce Partullo. You do not have to subscribe to the folk myth of Scottish financial prudence to see that a considered rejection of revenue-raising powers by a pillar of the financial establishment was bound to affect the mood. That business interests speak with slightly forked tongue is beside the point (only the other day English business was welcoming the devolution of powers to the English regions).

Recent polls suggest support for the Conservatives has grown. Such evidence need not be a cause for Labour concern. Tory strength is likely to have been consistently under-reported during the Thatcher-Major years and the non-representation of Conservatives in Scotland in the Westminster Parliament

is now one of the most glaring anomalies of first-past-the-post voting. Renewed Tory support could indeed be a sign of politics in Scotland returning "to normal" – which could mean the status quo of 1979. The vote next Thursday could see the satisfaction of Scots with the new government in London permitting only a limited change to governance in Edinburgh. Labour has a lot of work to do next week to avoid that embarrassment.

Parents learn the value of tuition

According to a survey commissioned by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, there has been a marked shift in parents' recognition that they should help to pay for their children's higher education. This must be good news for David Blunkett, the Education Secretary. Those Labour MPs who objected to the decision to charge for tuition – some quite vocally before the parliamentary break – should think again. For the poll also shows, despite the prospect of paying, that the numbers of young people likely to study will remain buoyant. They and their parents accept that higher education's benefits are personal as well as public and they are obliged as a result to contribute to costs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lachrymose frenzy over Diana's death

Sir: I cannot believe the mass hysteria sweeping the nation. Yes, it is a tragedy, but it should not be affecting our daily lives to this extent. I have no objection to people grieving, if that is how they feel. However, I suspect that there is a kind of morbid peer-pressure: "Have you signed the book of condolence yet?"

The media is in a lachrymose frenzy, perhaps induced by a sense of culpability. Every radio station, newspaper, and television station is torturing us with their exaggerated sorrow. There must be some other news worth reporting.

I hope that after the funeral we will all be permitted to get on with our own lives, and Diana will be allowed to rest in peace.
CONRAD JACOBSON
Manchester

Sir: The Independent appears to have forgotten its original policy of relegating royal affairs to the inside pages. Was it so entirely foolish? The media generally were bound to be distraught at the loss of a goose that had laid so many golden eggs but surely we could have asked for a degree more critical detachment from you?

After all, what is this fuss about? "Palace and people"? It's not a credible social description of anything found outside Grimm's fairy tales. "Landmines and Aids"? Let's quit the pretence. This was a soap opera, which was prematurely interrupted before the ratings began to fall.

True, the House of Windsor is distinctly upmarket from its pre-scripted Hollywood clones, and, yes, it was a "real" soap, insofar as the worlds of hereditary monarchy, paparazzi and international glitterati are real to the other 99.9 per cent of the population. But still it was a soap, a media product adapted for mass consumption. That and only that makes the loss of this one life matter more than any other.
PETER GHOSH
St Anne's College, Oxford

Sir: It is outrageous that the Scottish Football Association should be scapegoated for failing to rearrange a football match over which they have very little control. It is, however, in keeping with the intolerance that lies behind the myth of a nation "united in grief". There are those like the SFA, caught in circumstances beyond their control, and then there are the millions of people who are not grieved, not because they are heartless but simply because they did not know Diana, had not met Diana and were not inspired by Diana. Yet scarcely one word of their doubts and reservations is allowed to be heard.

The atmosphere of Britain this week has been utterly stifling. Let those who wish to grieve do so. But must everybody else be intimidated into line?
ED HORTON
Oxford

German solidarity

Sir: It seems the car hit a pillar full-on at 121mph. It is a supreme tribute to the engineering prowess of Mercedes-Benz Cars that the bodyguard sitting in the front passenger seat has survived.
PAUL WALTER
Newbury, Berkshire



Respect for Royal Family's grief

Sir: It would appear that the tabloid press have won the day, yet again. At the beginning of the week the television media talked endlessly of how the paparazzi's paymasters were responsible for the Princess's death. Now the UK tabloids have skilfully moved the controversy towards Balmoral in asking why were not the Royal Family publicly mourning Diana's loss.

After Diana is buried on Saturday the tabloids will be turning their guns on the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family, asking why was not more done for Diana during her lifetime. Before long, the two princes, William and Harry, will truly be cooped up in their "tower", being forced to live up to an image which I suspect was far more mythical than the majesty of monarchy itself.
JOHN P. MARIT-ROSSI
London E9

Sir: One of the saddest aspects of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is the bitter and unjustified hostility towards HM the Queen, HRH the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family which has surfaced through the press and the television over the last few days. This unimposed criticism of a family in mourning, struggling like any other which has had to face sudden and unexpected tragedy, does no justice whatever to the memory of the Princess.

It is a sad reflection of our times that the Queen, the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family, who for so long have worked tirelessly for the well-being of all in this country and many abroad, should be subject to the

discrediting outbursts which some newspapers and television news programmes are delighting in putting before us.

Such monumental disrespect and lack of manners at this most difficult of times does not in any way reflect the "exquisite manners" of the Princess, to which a friend of hers referred recently in a tribute to her. The Rev PETER LYNESS
London W6

Sir: Having lived through the violent and much reported death of a close family member, I had the utmost sympathy with the Royal Family's decision to hide itself away from the public.

At this time all families need to be close together and may well not have the strength to face people outside their immediate confines. This was certainly my experience. For the royals the experience can only be worse, as they will be subject to intense public gaze on Saturday and beyond, a fate no others have to endure.

I implore your readers to think first of the needs of Diana's immediate family and less of their own needs. If we really care for Diana we should lend the father of her children, and their other close relatives, our support as they try to support the two boys through this impossible time.
RICHARD CADMAN
London SW15

Sir: Suzanne Moore ("The Windsors still don't understand us", 3 September) doesn't know that "the future king cannot even put his arms

around his young sons". I am sure that in private he will be doing all that he can to comfort his children, but what Suzanne Moore demands is a public display of emotion, denying Charles the option of grieving in his own way.

What kind of callousness drives her to forget that, whatever his position, Prince Charles is still a man who can only feel things the way he does? Where is her compassion? Or does she reserve it for those who satisfy her own notions of how emotion is best expressed?
TONY MULLHOLLAND
London W7

Sir: So, the Royal Family is exposed to sniping and hostile speculation if it does not copy the habits and style of one of its former members. A 71-year-old monarch and her 50-year-old heir are guilty for not behaving like a 36-year-old given to expensive frocks and conspicuously extravagant holidays.

Am I, at 39, alone in beginning to weary of the tabloid assumption, shared by some of your commentators, that the head of state is only deserving of respect if he or she is totally tuned in to popular culture? When, in truth, was any such figure ever so tuned in?

I want Diana to have every honour paid and all respect, grief and gratitude expressed. I do not want her youthful beauty and popularity used as a weapon against the Queen and the Prince of Wales.
GEOFFREY THOMPSON
London SE4

Sir: At last! John Campbell's letter of 4 September is a clear, commonsense change from the outpouring of faux misery which has, alas, cluttered the columns of your previously distinguished newspaper as well as the predatory, greedy and self-righteous tabloids.

You seem to be using this event to whip up a frenzy of tasteless public feeling against the monarchy. One of your reports ("Charles and Camilla forced to part", 4 September) suggests that The Prince of Wales "may be hooded and kissed at [the] funeral". The power of suggestion is great. Shame on you all.
JSM ROBERTS
London SE26

No rush for a republic

Sir: Polly Toynbee ("The last chapter of the Royal fairy tale", 4 September) implores the Prince of Wales to abdicate after the Queen's death. This is a personal choice by those currently near to the throne, based upon alleged recent mistakes and misjudgements. Ms Toynbee also makes the suggestion that we move towards becoming a republic over the next twenty years. This is a major constitutional change requiring a thorough examination of all the implications of changing how we appoint our ultimate constitutional ombudsman.

The events of the past week have not changed the pros and cons of

monarchy or republic. Grief is to be endured and possibly even admired, but it will pass with time.
PATRICK BELL
London SE16

Sir: With the self-righteousness common to republican sentiment, Suzanne Moore ("The Windsors still don't understand us", 3 September) overlooks years of dedicated service given to the nation by the House of Windsor, not least by Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince of Wales, ("closed away somewhere in their cold castle, unable or uninterested in judging the public mood").

The grief of the country will only be deepened by your columnist's exploitation of the moment in pursuit of their own constitutional agenda.
FR LINDSAY MCKENNA
Hullfax

Diary of tears

Dear Bridget Jones: Now look what you've done.

Here I sit, a middle-aged family man, white Anglo-Saxon ex-Protestant middle class Brit. Naturally, I am horrified at the death of the Princess of Wales and of those with her. But I do not feel personally touched and I am beginning to feel that the public response is mystifying, embarrassingly over-intense.

Then I read your diary today (3 September). I suddenly realise what it is all about. I find myself sitting at breakfast with my eyes filled with tears.

See what you've done?
TIM CLARK
Bristol

A privacy law will not help

Sir: By its sheer scale, the public outpouring of grief at the tragic death of Princess Diana has exceeded that anticipated by politicians, media and the Royal Family. By the same token, it undermines the clamour of those wishing to seize on the circumstances of the Princess's death and the nation's sense of loss as the route to a privacy law.

It is profoundly patronising as well as wrongheaded of some in the Establishment to dismiss the public at large as a lumpen mass force-fed their media diet and incapable of making personal judgements. Indeed, the People's Princess, who had her own love-hate relationship with the popular media, was loved as much for her human vulnerabilities and mood swings as she was for her inspirational efforts in aid of the sick and helpless and her unique glamour.

Intractable problems attach themselves to drafting privacy laws capable of simultaneously protecting prominent or ordinary citizens and investigative journalism (whether by broadsheet, tabloid or television). There could no more ill-fitting reaction to the tragedy of the People's Princess than a flawed law that endangers the people's right to know.

It is worth remembering here that the awful events which killed the Princess also cost the life of Dodi Fayed, the companion who had latterly brought so much deserved happiness into her life and the son of the man who performed a high-profile role in exposing the electorate to the corruption and venality of certain politicians. Privacy laws would almost certainly have prevented that service.

It may yet be that a new understanding will now evolve naturally between the media and its public. Only a suicidal editor or proprietor would lightly push beyond the commercial taste barrier a post-Diana public would accept. That would make for a far more fitting memorial to the People's Princess than summoning up those ever-eager legislators.
PAUL CONNOR
London, NW7

The writer was formerly executive editor of the *Sunday Mirror* and deputy editor of the *Daily Mirror* and the *News of the World*.

Tribute to an icon

Sir: The BBC reported that gay men and lesbians were among the first to bring flowers to Kensington Palace.

The extraordinary effect of Diana's life on the lives of gay men and lesbians has scarcely been registered by the press, nor has the profound sense of loss felt by this community. Her instinctive humanity, her leadership in recognising the suffering of AIDS patients and her sense of style all greatly moved us.

Equally important, she was a woman who suffered yet who persevered magnificently. This, despite abandonment and vicious criticism of her personality, activities and desires. In the firmament of gay icons, she will surely have one of the most honoured places.

One hopes that the gay and lesbian community of Britain will find appropriate means to express its grief and honour Diana's gifts to us.
JOHN M FRITZ
London WC2

dissident voices

What right do we have to tell Charles how to mourn, asks Rupert Cornwell, while (right) Paul Vallely abhors the arrogance that demands public grief



Main picture: In Paris to collect Diana's body, the emotional turmoil of his personal life has taken its toll on Charles's bearing since (inset) his 30th year

Photographs: Sky News/Daily Record

Too many feelings, not too few

It has come to this, in this increasingly edgy ordeal of a week whose climax tomorrow in Westminster Abbey will not come a moment too soon. We, proclaiming ourselves grief-stricken at the death of a woman we knew only vicariously through the mass media, see fit to give advice to the man who had married her, fathered her two children, and for better or worse knew her better than anyone, on how to mourn her.

Of the quite unimaginable pressures that now bear upon Prince Charles this may not be the greatest, but it is surely the least forgivable. Diana, tragically, is gone. The void and the sadness she has left behind is huge. But we at least may expiate our sadness with lines in a book of condolence, with a bunch of flowers, in a sense of bereavement shared. In this "liberated" Britain that resembles America more with every passing day, therapy lies in emotions openly bared. Let it all hang out – and if you don't there must be something wrong with you.

That is how it is for Charles, before the giant distorting mirror of public opinion. He is blamed, somehow, for bringing about Diana's death, as if he alone were responsible for the end of a marriage that should never have been made. Forget the high speed chase of a limousine driven by a drunken chauffeur in the employment of her lover. Had she not been coldly cut loose by the Royal Family and forced into divorce, runs this overstretched chain of causality, the accident would never have happened. Ergo, it is Charles's fault.

Then he is taken to task for suppressing his feelings, for showing a silence and reserve which some

people (hopelessly old-fashioned, we are told) still believe is the way in which grief should be clothed. He is criticised for agreeing to take his children to church on the Sunday morning. Why, it was asked, did he remain in the fastness of Balmoral, instead of returning to London, where the people are lamenting the loss of their Princess?

Let me declare myself. The closest I've come to royalty was when I was 12 or 13 years old at a Berkshire prep school near Cheam school, which Charles attended, and which we used to play at football and rugby. When the game was at Cheam, we celebrity-obsessed schoolboys would seek out the royal locker in the changing room, try on the royal games shirt and use the royal hairbrush on the shelf.

But our paths never crossed in person, on the games field or anywhere else. My subsequent feelings about the monarchy are surely those of very many people. For a long while I was an agnostic. The institution was distant, but basically harmless, above all an immutable part of the national landscape. Then the scandals started, and at some point over the last two or three years, the exasperation and embarrassment became too much. I crossed the Rubicon to republicanism. Not a passionate republicanism, but the belief that, on balance, we'd be better off without them. But being a republican is one thing. Joining in the general obloquy against the Prince of Wales, at this most anguished moment of an anguished life, is quite another. Diana deserves our sympathy; so do her children. But so too, and unequivocally, does Charles.

His predicament is unspeakable. As any divorced man, he must be haunted by a sense of

responsibility. As a father, he must bring up his two children alone. Tomorrow, quite possibly, only their presence at his side will prevent him from being booed. On top of that is the very survival of the monarchy, the job for which his whole life has been a waiting period. In this field too, his performance in the next few days could be decisive. Yet Camilla Parker-Bowles, presumably his strongest source of physical and emotional support, must be kept more firmly out of sight than ever. Marriage to her surely is out of the question. And at this hyper-charged moment at least, as a result of his perceived ill-treatment of Diana, it is hard indeed to imagine him as King. Both his public and private lives will play out, forever, in the shadow of the dead Princess, for ever young and beautiful. Imagine a circle of deadly sharp, inward-pointing daggers: in the centre is Charles.

In the media, he is depicted as cool, dour, and utterly devoid of feeling for ordinary people. She was one of us: Charles irremediably belonged to them. That image too is a travesty which merely underlines how upstaged and outmanoeuvred he was by Diana in the miserable battle that developed as their marriage died. True, he might come across like that, especially when juxtaposed with his wife, sparkling with empathy and humanity. In fact, Charles's problem is not a lack of feelings, but a surfeit of them. He is a man paralysed by his own sensitivities, and the indecision which springs from them.

Cast your mind back. There was a period, before his every effort was utterly obscured by Diana, when Charles was advertised as the last best hope for renewing the House of Windsor. He was the family member who seemed in touch. He spoke out for the homeless and underprivileged, and worried about race relations. He was the one who spoke out loud about the issues of the day, including such thoroughly beneficial steps as the severing of the links between the monarchy and the Church of England. He could be witty and self-deprecating. Has he really changed so much since? The answer, everyone who knows him insists, is no.

But these are strange times. The days before the funeral drag by almost interminably, while the linked wheels of media opinion and public emotion spin in the sand, throwing up unquestioning love and simmering resentment in equal measure. The appointment is grossly unfair. We are not talking now of his fitness to be King. The future of the monarchy is an issue to be settled later. This is a moment of grief, and for no one more so than Charles. To tell him how to express it is an outrage.

Of shrines and superstition

The flowers are as extravagant as the grief. Not single stems, nor ordinary bunches but brimming bouquets which fill the arms of mourners who bring them. The gates of the royal palaces have become scenes not of mere sorrow but of a woe which is wanton, opulent and intemperate. It is as if plain Protestant England has been transported in place and time to a sultry Mediterranean Catholicism of shrines and superstition. Don't cry for me, Inglaterra.

This is not to criticise. Merely to observe a change. Yet there is something in the new reckless discharge of emotion which is not so tolerant of ways that are not its own.

Yesterday morning's tabloid press carried an unprecedented attack on the Queen for appearing "uncaring". She had remained sequestered with her family in its sadness. She had not addressed the nation. She had refused to break protocol by allowing the flag to fly at half-mast over Buckingham Palace. "The Final Insult," the Sun called it. "Let the flag fly at half-mast," demanded the Daily Mail. "Show Us You Care," shrieked the Express in letters two inches high. "Speak to us, ma'am, please speak," said the unctuous Mirror editorial.

But it was not just the media. The public in BBC vox pops demanded that the Queen "come to the microphone". All manner of public figures offered their two-penn'orth to the effect that, as one tyro Labour MP pompously put it, "a little bit of emotion would not be

amiss". Even the Prime Minister's defence of the sovereign was twinged in its inverted assertion that the Royal Family "share our grief".

The Queen was so hurt that she took the unusual step of announcing the fact in a statement. Later it was announced that she would fly back to London early, speak to the nation tonight and allow the Union flag to fly at half-mast from Buckingham Palace on the day of the funeral.

There is something profoundly distasteful about the way she has been brow-beaten into all this. It is not the incontinence of the demotic outpourings I object to. Let the general public lament in whatever

she is a mere extra in some media spectacular. She must conform to the demands of a world of homogenised lowest-common-denominator populism. If the people fail to understand what a Royal Standard symbolises, and when it should be flown, that ignorance must be paraded and all must bow to its prejudice. Such is the logic that leads to public hangings.

The Royal Family's silent suffering is alien to such a culture of noise. But there are times when silence is seemingly and bereavement is one of those times. A family in mourning is comforted to receive letters of condolence; but it is not usually expected to reply to them until after the funeral.

There may be legitimate complaints about the Royal Family's failure to attune itself to the times. It may yet be that their private lives will come into public view to the point where the TV cameras intrude into much more – usually expected to reply to them until after the funeral.

But that is thankfully not now the case. In the meantime, the Royal Family should be allowed to grieve in the manner it feels most fit, and from which it derives most solace. And the rest of us should not be so arrogant as to impose upon them our own new-found exorbitant demonstrativeness.

The Impact of Fees

Higher Education Funding after Dearing

Tuesday 9 September 1997 Cumberland Hotel, London W1

A special conference called by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to examine the Government's funding proposals, in the light of the Dearing Report and the short and long term funding challenge for higher education. It will consider the proposals' implication for access, equity, employment, growth, standards and quality and for policy development and research into higher education funding. A major conference for university and college policy makers, business leaders, student service organisations, professional bodies, academics, local education authority members and officers and graduate recruiters.

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THE INDEPENDENT

In association with the Independent and Independent on Sunday

Save good design like it's going out of fashion

Sometimes I agree with Alastair Cooke and sometimes I disagree and sometimes I don't know what the hell he is talking about even though I always enjoy listening to him if I can get my heartbeat slow enough, but the only time he ever made me get up off my backside and rush out and do something was when he said that he feared that people would one day stop making proper ribbons for old-fashioned manual typewriters – proper cotton ones, not funny plastic ones – so he had laid in a great stock of them. As I, too, from time to time have a pleasurable resort to my old portable typewriter (No batteries! Works through power cuts! Comes in two colours! Actually prints the hard copy as you watch!) I too rushed out and bought a dozen reels in advance, and I am now prepared for years ahead.

Manual typewriters are supposedly rendered obsolete by word processors and all those other things, but there are certain things they always did better. It is a great mistake to think that progress brings all-round improvement. For instance, I

remember the time 10 years ago that I moved out of London and had to take the video recorder back to the Notting Hill shop for which I had rented it for years.

"By gum – bit of a museum piece here," said the man, as he welcomed it back fondly (as well he might, considering how much it had earned for him). "I did think now and then of trading it in for a better, more modern model," I lied. "You might have got a more modern one, but never a better one," he said, looking at its controls. "This is way ahead of what they're making now, for the public at least."

"This one is better than the new ones?"
"Oh, yes. The thing is that when they first started producing VCRs they thought people would use them for editing and making home films as well as recording and viewing TV, so they gave them lots of facilities such as freeze-framing, frame-by-frame viewing, very slow rewind and so on. Then they discovered that people didn't want all this and didn't know how to handle it – they can still barely handle timers on their



Miles Kingston

VCRs – so they dropped it all and made the machines much simpler. Yours is an early one. It's pretty advanced still."

What he was saying was what palaeontologists sometimes tell us: that all species that have ever existed have died out sooner or later. But he was adding a footnote to their theory by saying that sometimes the wrong species dies out ...

There are plenty of examples of the wrong thing catching on and the right thing being sidelined. My brother-in-law became convinced early on that Betamax was better than

VHS, as most people now think, and is still waiting for VHS to go away. I feel the same way about London A-Z maps, which are nowhere as nice or clear as Nicholson's Streetfinders and their other products. My wife has a similar grouse about Raspberry Crunch. Raspberry Crunch is the only cereal she likes at all. She says that the best make by far, the nicest and tastiest, is Cheshire's. Better than Jordan's and Sainsbury's own brand and all the others. And guess which is the hardest to find in the shops? The one that people won't stock? Correct. She has Cheshire's Raspberry Crunch stocked up the way I have typewriter ribbons.

This train of thought came to me as I lay in the bath this morning. Why? Because our bath is another example of an endangered design. It has its taps, not at the end, but half-way along the side.

I can't remember now why my wife and I chose this model (made in Germany, I think) but we have never regretted it.

For a start, you can actually reach the taps without pulling a muscle or

trying to use the toes, and without having to pass through an intermediate pool of boiling or freezing water. You can sit at either end of the bath without having to lean back against taps.

This means that two people can get in a bath together, if that's your idea of fun, and neither will get the rotten end.

And if there's just one of you (which is the way I most often take a bath) you get a dazzling choice of ends. Sometimes when I want to do a bit of reading in the bath, I sit at the end overlooked by the bathroom window so that the daylight falls on my book. At other times I sit down the other end because it's warmer and also has a better view, out of the self-same window.

Need I say more? This is a bath for life. Unless it wears out, of course, in which case I may find that, like Betamax and clever VCRs, it has been phased out.

Which is why at present I am formulating plans to lay in a store of baths with taps down one side, in the same way as one does with typewriter ribbons and Cheshire's Raspberry Crunch.

The Blair effect was there, but the sadness was real

Under the great flood of emotion and public unity which Diana's death seems to have evoked, a small, cynical eddy begins to swirl: Has the Blair effect turned the death of a princess into part of the great modernisation project? Could the Queen and her family have been made to look stiff-backed, Edwardian and even uncaring this week precisely through contrast with the modernity of the Government?

Rewind, if you will, to Sunday morning. Look again at the words the Prime Minister used when he paid his tribute. What was the real message?

"I feel like everyone else in this country today. I am utterly devastated. Our thoughts and prayers are with Princess Diana's family, particularly her two sons. Our heart goes out to them." (Note the official wrong "Princess Diana". Since she lost her HRH, people like the Prime Minister are supposed to say "Diana, Princess of Wales", but Tony sticks to the expression the people use.)

Our heart? Our prayers? If Margaret Thatcher had used language such as this she would have been derided for believing she was the Queen. But when Tony Blair did it, the meaning of his words could not have been more different. What he was telling us was that he was one of us. We, the nation, not we, the establishment.

No wonder so many of those interviewed outside the royal palaces have spoken of how the Prime Minister's words had moved them. Ever so subtly, he was shaping the mood of the occasion, even infiltrating himself gently into the minds of the mourners. Take a look at how his statement ended: "People everywhere, not just here in Britain, kept faith with Princess Diana ... She was the People's Princess and that is how she will stay, how she will remain in our hearts and our memories for ever."

The People's Princess. It may seem now that the phrase was perfectly judged to match the mood of the nation. But it did more than that. It shaped it. And whether by serendipity or by design, what it said was that Diana was "one of us". Ergo, she was not one of "them", not part of the distant, formal body into which she married.

The impression was strengthened by the news - it just slipped out, of course - that the Palace had asked Labour officials for help with the funeral arrangements. The thing was, they knew how to handle a major, modern funeral such as this because they had organised one for John Smith just three years ago. And it was stressed, the royal obsequies did not cover this eventuality.

As the queues lengthened in The Mall and as the flowers piled up ever higher, the Prime Minister was visible where the royals were remote. There was business at Downing Street, though all done in an appropriately respectful fashion. A meeting with the Trades Union Con-



Fran Abrams

The Prime Minister's phrase 'the People's Princess' more than matched the mood of the nation. It shaped it

vision cameras that the Royal Family were "trying to cope in a tremendously difficult situation". They share our grief very much and we should respect that," he said. Note: They share our grief. Then he did something really below the belt. He walked to the end of Downing Street and comforted mourners who had gathered there. In an eerie echo of the Diana-like behaviour that apparently so irked the royals, he touched some of them on the arm and allowed himself to be clasped by the hands.

So, has the Blair machine turned even this sad event to its own purposes? If we hear a mounting chorus of calls for the modernisation of the monarchy over the next few months, should we suspect Downing Street of carefully engineering the whole thing?

No. The fact is that for once - and savour the moment, for it is a rare one - even New Labour could not take total control. Yes, Mr Blair touched the right buttons. Yes, he exercised considerable skill in doing so. But this time, something else was going on as well. The deep anger that has welled up during this week was not the simple creation of a few days' media hype and Downing Street spin. The genie that has got out of this particular bottle has been awaiting its day for far longer than that.

It is true that Mr Blair and his advisers have understood the situation well. And that is why they will read very gently on the issue of the monarchy as time goes on. Whatever direction they do take, though, you may be sure that they will take it with one eye firmly on "our" feelings.



Sara Maitland

not inconsiderable salary and the least she could have done was stick with the terms of the contract.

Furthermore, as a Christian, I am alarmed by the strong elements of cult which are evolving very fast - paralleling the life and death of Princess Grace of Monaco, though on an incomparably larger scale. I suspect we won't have to wait long for a mir-

acle - already a tabloid newspaper has captioned a picture of Diana comforting Elton John with a reference to her "healing hands".

On the other hand, I think she was remarkably beautiful. I acknowledge how much she did for the charitable causes she adopted: I have spoken to people who had met her and believe them when they say that she had an extraordinary charisma - a combination of glamour and warmth that was irresistible. (I'm less convinced by those who tell me how intelligent and witty she was, but that gigue was very charming.)

But none of this adds up to an emotional involvement, positive or negative. I am, if pushed, saddened that she should have died, but no more so than I should be to hear of the death of any other middle-aged mother who left two teenage children: a fleeting though real regret for anyone who was killed so violently, a passing concern for the boys, though I do not have to worry about them as much as I should about other

girls had been "sombre and business-like", a spokesman said. A conference on education was to be "low-key". Midweek, though, as the feelings of anger about the strictness of royal protocol built up (Why no half-mast flag over Buckingham Palace? Why no sign of any royals coming to London to pay their respects by Diana's coffin?), Number 10 was forced to back-pedal.

The last impression anyone would want to give would be one of tension between the Government and the Palace. So Mr Blair, who had phoned Prince Charles on Sunday to offer his condolences, was back on the line again the other night giving support.

Briefing the media on the call, his spokesman said the press could not expect the Royal Family to "jump in and be extras in a media event". The press was being unfair and unhelpful in criticising Prince Charles and other members of the Royal Family for not knowing how to respond to the public grief, he suggested. Of course the Palace understood the deep public sense of grief, and they were responding to it in the funeral arrangements that were being made.

Despite the supportive words, though, Mr Blair's actions continued to jar uncomfortably with those of the royals. Just after the press had been briefed, the Prime Minister told waiting television cameras that the Royal Family were "trying to cope in a tremendously difficult situation".

They share our grief very much and we should respect that," he said. Note: They share our grief. Then he did something really below the belt. He walked to the end of Downing Street and comforted mourners who had gathered there. In an eerie echo of the Diana-like behaviour that apparently so irked the royals, he touched some of them on the arm and allowed himself to be clasped by the hands.

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The tabloids take their slice of the pie

by Suzanne Moore

The media giveth and the media taketh away, but what the media wants the media shall have. By reflecting the will of the people this week, it has moved mountains. The Queen, the icest peak of all, will talk to the nation because that is what the nation wants. How do we know that is what the nation wants? Because the media has told us so. Diana's death, caused in some way by the very worst aspects of the media, has already brought out some of its very best.

It has reflected the nation back to itself and we are changed by it, humbled by what we see of ourselves. By reporting the views of "ordinary" people, the media has forced changes upon the arrangements made to mourn Diana. It has proved more powerful, more influential than any other institution. The government, expert at negotiating and spinning stories, has worked with the media. The royals, with their archaic funkies reading out statements, haven't - and look where it has got them.

I do not want to glorify the whole circus of which, obviously, I am a part, for we have all been walking a fine line this week. We have all wanted to have our cake and eat it, if that is not too bulimic an expression.

A series of largely questionable oppositions has emerged, enabling one section of the media to slag off another part of it and exonerate itself in the process. Thus broadsheets are different from tabloids. Sammy foreign paparazzi are different from our good old boys who simply do their job. Television is different from newspapers, and so on.

The one opposition that we are all in tacit agreement about is the most startling: that of the people versus the Palace. The masses gathered in the streets are, then, part of some quiet revolution. The historic symbolism of masses of people silently gathering on the streets is not lost on us. It pre-figures the collapse of the Berlin Wall. We feel, now, that something has to give, but the monarchy looks incapable of giving. The Queen's broadcast will be seen by many of us as too little, too late. It has been dragged out of her rather than spontaneously given.

No one knows quite what to make of this public feeling, for this is cultural rather than political revolution. It is about being rather than doing. It is saying not so much that we want a



radical change as that we have already changed radically. It is just that no one has really grasped how much.

And who would not want to claim this mood, to read the zeitgeist as part of some far larger, more easily defined project? Yet, now that Diana is dead, it is still no easier to sign

happened to Diana masks the continuing desire to still see more and more of her. We continue to consume her image as voraciously as we ever did.

We are all voyeurs, all implicated in this. Do we want to see the Royal Family break down and weep, its supporters ask? Yes we do. Is the only emotion

of a man who lived long before the age of mass media. Well, we grieved for the children of Dunblane and we cried for Jamie Bulger and the victims of Hillsborough and as long ago as the King's Cross fire we started taking out little bunches of wilted flowers to the site of these terrible tragedies.

would perhaps have preferred a more politically correct princess, but that is to miss the point. Diana cut across all that. In giving herself permission to be vulnerable, contradictory, idealistic, she has given us that same permission. She used the media to show that to us, and we are now using the media to show it to each other.

There may be a point at which we say we do not want to see any more, that we have had enough, that there is nothing left to see of her or her mourners. But that, at the moment, is unimaginable. We continue to find what has happened to her all-consuming. The nation will stop on Saturday and the media, full of both its good guys and bad guys, will give the people what they most desire - inclusion in this mass spectacle.

It has always been impossible to speak of Diana without talking of her relationship with the media, and it still is. Her image is being constructed in death as it was in life, but the force that is driving it is the will of the people, the punters, the consumers. The media is one step behind trying to satisfy a demand that even in its wildest dreams it underestimated. The gulf between image and reality is fading fast, for the nation is re-making itself in her image in order that we might see ourselves as we really are.

Papers that routinely defiled Diana when she was alive now revile the royals for defiling her memory: amnesia is lucrative

her up to republicanism than when she was alive. She wanted desperately for her son to be king. The tabloids, in particular, want a slice of this pie. They who routinely defiled her when she was alive now revile the royals for defiling her memory.

Amnesia, it appears, is lucrative. Those who commissioned, bought and published pictures of her pregnant in a bikini, working out at the gym, crying in the street, are now ever so concerned that enough respect should be shown. They are now preparing their special supplements of more acceptable pictures. Collective denial, collective guilt about what

that is meaningful one that is clearly visible to the outside world? Yes, I'm afraid, at the moment, that is the way we feel. We want to turn outwards rather than inwards, to express something collectively as well as individually.

This may be seen by some as a kind of hysteria, a clinical condition - to which many vulnerable folk have succumbed. Hysteria, of course, is a deeply patronising word, for it both feminises and infantilises the depth of feeling of the public. How can people grieve so for someone they have not met, ask psychologists, who base their theories on the work

Put simply, Diana was not only perceived as a force for tremendous good but as the biggest celebrity of all. This combination in a secular age is the most powerful imaginable. The total visibility that the media gave her made a more significant presence in some people's lives than people they actually knew, just as some people feel that an appearance on television is the most real and legitimating moment of their lives.

This, some suggest, is misguided. They would like all this emotion poured into a more politically correct cause or a properly religious one. They

We are not all part of this

'I didn't know her - I can't mourn for someone I did not know'

At about 7.30 last Sunday morning a friend rang to tell me about the car crash. He really thought I would want to know, that I would be moved, touched, fascinated, involved - as he was; but quite honestly I would rather have been asleep. I was irritated that he had thought otherwise.

Throughout the week my irritation has grown, but now it is directed at myself. I can see, appreciate, accept that there is a huge wave of genuine emotion; a sense of personal loss and grief that I have no doubt is sincere. I am simply not part of this, and I wonder why not.

I'm not unique. There are a few of us: we chat on the phone, bemused, more engaged with our failure to engage than with the event itself. I have identified various different sorts of detachment.

There are those who did not like her; those who took "Charles's side"; those who doubted the sincerity of her charitable activities, or thought she was a neurotic bimbo. There are the sturdy royalists who feel she endangered the unique standing of the Royal Family and brought the monarchy into disrepute. These people appear to resent the fuss that is being made.

There are also those who are anti-monarchists, who have believed that royalty was running out of steam and that within our lifetimes the whole system would collapse and we would become a proper modern nation: this group have spent the week disgruntled. I suspect this is because their hopes have been dashed. Whatever else is going on in the national collective unconscious, it is not a desire to get rid of the glamour, the magic, the sanctity, of majesty.

But I don't find myself in either of these camps. I am neither resentful nor furious; I am bored and baffled. Oddly enough I could belong in either. I am a committed socialist, an anti-monarchist, convinced that the class privilege which flirts itself nakedly in Britain is the most destructive and regressive element of our national life; and it is sustained by the monarchy. Equally, in as much as I have bothered to think about it at all, I think the Prince of Wales got a pretty rough deal from the media; and that Diana took on a job at a

scale - already a tabloid newspaper has captioned a picture of Diana comforting Elton John with a reference to her "healing hands".

On the other hand, I think she was remarkably beautiful. I acknowledge how much she did for the charitable causes she adopted: I have spoken to people who had met her and believe them when they say that she had an extraordinary charisma - a combination of glamour and warmth that was irresistible. (I'm less convinced by those who tell me how intelligent and witty she was, but that gigue was very charming.)

But none of this adds up to an emotional involvement, positive or negative. I am, if pushed, saddened that she should have died, but no more so than I should be to hear of the death of any other middle-aged mother who left two teenage children: a fleeting though real regret for anyone who was killed so violently, a passing concern for the boys, though I do not have to worry about them as much as I should about other

children who lose their mother so. At least they know their father and the family will continue to support them.

I didn't know her. I can't mourn for someone I did not know. Though even that is a simplification - I am perfectly able to be both shocked and grieved at the deaths of people I did not know, but that is usually when some sense of justice is touched: the victims of war, or famine, or political oppression. I think that is a different sort of sorrow.

What is clear is that an extraordinary number of people feel that they did know her; their grief is real, tangible and deeply personal. They knew her and they loved her. Or they knew her and they disliked her. I am asking myself if this is a realism and honesty in me, or some failure of my hard-hearted soul. Perhaps I am jealous, and what I really want are designer dresses and an international fan club (after all, when I was 11 I wanted to marry Prince Charles myself). Perhaps I have so over-refined my sensibilities that I hold myself too superior for such mass emotion and devotion.

I wonder, however, if some of my distance from this is because I am completely free of guilt. I was not interested in her when she was alive. I was irked to have to break up a dinner party because all the guests wanted to watch her, to my mind, trivial interview on *Panorama*. I never bought a single paper in order to see pictures of her. I didn't read the Morton biography. The bitter fact is that the media gave her to us, and the media, we have decided, killed her. Her brother said, and the nation applauded, that anyone who bought a picture of her had her blood on his hands. Well, my hands are clean, so I do not have anything to expiate. One of the social functions of all mourning is the alleviation of guilt.

Quite honestly, I am not entirely convinced by this as an explanation of my absence of involvement. I suspect that how we feel about her death is probably a blown-up snapshot of how we felt about her alive. I wasn't involved in her life and so I'm not involved now. Some people were involved, and so they have lost something I have not lost. I just want to have something interesting on TV.

As advertised in your school

Adverts are appearing on exercise books and textbooks in schools and now this is being seriously discussed: What sort of advertising posters should be allowed into school grounds? A radio commentator suggests there should be three kinds of advertising: the welcome (health warnings, etc), the acceptable (records, health foods) and the barred (alcohol, tobacco and so forth).

Now, I'm in favour of information. Times and places of plays and movies, lists of new products, books and records. Information - just give me the facts. But advertising is misinformation in the service of profit. Advertising is brainwashing for commercial gain.

These days even advertising is being advertised. It's promoted as the new "art form". There are Media pages in the broadsheets which seriously discuss the comparative merits of a heap of trash about jeans and a pack of lies about soap. I remember some dewey-eyed art students in Edinburgh telling me that they were going into advertising because it is "an Art". I pointed out that art is the pursuit of truth. Advertising is the pursuit of money. They smiled. They thought it was quite a good slogan.

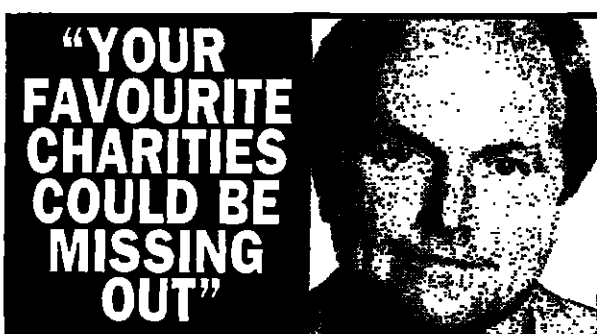
But the whole world is being invaded by advertising - and most people seem to be happy collaborators. Look at our soccer players, wearing stupid adverts for electrical goods and

lager. Look at our teenagers, flaunting the name-tags and logos of those who sell them togs at sky-high "designer" prices. Look at our A, B and C citizens, paying for the privilege of being walking poster sites - wearing T-shirts proclaiming their loyalty to New York or Bangkok or some pious beer. And now - billboards in schools? Schools are supposed to be places in which the truth is explored and revealed. I feel like Diogenes snarling from my barrel at a brilliant parade of drivel.

How witty, how stylish the TV commercials are! Of course - they're made by fine actors, writers, composers and directors - the best creative talents money can buy. Of course - their budgets are 100 times bigger per minute than any non-commercial programme, or any movie of integrity. Why not have adverts in churches, chapels and cathedrals? After all, a stained-glass window is a poster for a saint, a spire is an advertisement for God and a crucifix is Christ's personal logo.

No. I'd be happiest if all advertisements could be confined to the lavatories of banks and palaces. Until that day, I suggest a new improved advertising tax. A sum representing 100 per cent of the budget of every commercial, poster or press advertisement should be paid into a fund to eradicate poverty, all around the world.

Adrian Mitchell



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August car market hits 525,000 but high street boom slows and Dixons reports lower sales growth

Record R-reg sales 'not a sign of overheating'

 Chris Godsmark,
Diane Coyle
and Nigel Cope

Business leaders yesterday urged the Bank of England not to raise interest rates further despite figures showing that car sales broke all records last month as building society windfalls helped send demand for R-registrations models well past the half a million mark.

Car sales during this year's August frenzy reached a new high of 525,539, well ahead of even the most optimistic industry predictions and comfortably above the previous peak for the month set in 1989. Imports took nearly 70 per cent of the market, fuelled by the strong pound.

But Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford, the market leader, insisted the figures did not reflect an overheating economy or an unsustainable consumer boom. "My gut feeling is that the economy is not as strong as these figures suggest, certainly not at the same peak as it was in 1989. I hope the Bank of England does not look at these numbers and interpret them as a sign of significant overheating because it isn't."

He added that special factors such as the unprecedented level of marketing activity by manufacturers and high levels of pre-registrations to bring sales forward from September had been behind the record figure.

Support came from the Confederation of British Industry's latest distributive trades survey



McAllister: Special factors driving record August market

showing that the pace of sales growth on the high street slowed "markedly" in August. Sales volumes fell well short of retailers' expectations after a buoyant June and July.

Dixons, the electrical retailer, also offered further evidence that the high street mini-boom was cooling. Same store sales in the 17 weeks of its financial year were 11 per cent ahead of the same period last year. That compares with a 17 per cent surge in sales which the company reported in July.

The CBI's findings support other evidence this week in suggesting that the interest rate increases announced by the Bank of England since May might be succeeding in taking

the froth off consumer spending. It is expected to leave rates unchanged after next week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

The car sales figures yesterday from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) showed registrations rose 9.6 per cent in August, from 479,945 in the same month last year, easily beating the previous August record of 500,112 sales in 1989, the only previous time when registrations exceeded the half a million mark. However, the SMMT stuck by its forecast of 2.1 million sales for the whole of 1997, up from 2.03 million last year but well below the record of 2.5 million in 1989.

"There was clearly pent up demand from earlier in the year last month. Some customers waited to buy an R-reg car with their windfalls," said an SMMT spokesman.

David Archibald, operations director of Nissan, said the market had gone "a little crazy". He continued: "No one predicted sales on this scale and we do see this as a blip."

Despite the demand from private buyers, the biggest rise in sales came from the fleet market, where registrations rose 10.6 per cent to 196,955. Strong sales for makes such as Renault and BMW contributed to a big increase in imports, which accounted for 68.1 per cent of the market last month, up from 62.8 per cent in August 1996.

Jay Nagley, an industry expert from consultants Quadrangle,

Imports take lion's share of August car market as UK manufacturers falter



1: Ford Fiesta, 30,636. Price: £10,085 (LX 1.25)



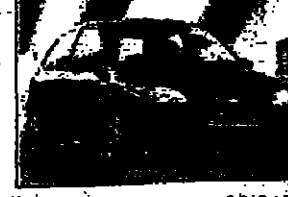
2: Ford Escort, 24,081. Price: £13,550 (LX 1.6)



3: Ford Mondeo, 23,794. Price: £13,995 (Verona)



4: Vauxhall Vectra, 22,846. Price: £15,050 (LS 1.8)



5: Vauxhall Corsa, 20,312. Price: £9,110 (LS 1.2)

R-reg winners and losers.....

Winners	Aug 1997	%	Aug 1996	%
Vauxhall	70,266	13.37	60,446	12.61
Renault	39,676	7.55	35,346	7.37
Mercedes-Benz	8,764	1.67	7,012	1.46
BMW	19,764	3.76	15,141	3.16
Peugeot/Talbot	11,345	2.17	36,777	7.67
Losers				
Volkswagen	26,851	5.11	27,854	5.81
Ford	92,655	17.63	89,680	18.71
Rover	20,761	3.95	49,105	10.24
Jaguar	1,664	0.32	2,176	0.45
Nissan	24,059	4.58	22,313	4.65
Total market	525,539	(up 9.62)	479,945	
Imports	357,769	68.1	301,270	62.84
UK-built	167,770	31.92	178,137	37.16

said: "Loyalty to traditional British manufacturers is continuing to erode. The biggest improvements came from premium brands like BMW, Mercedes and Volvo."

Though Ford was again responsible for the top three best selling models, the group's market share dropped to 17.6 per cent, down from 18.7 per cent in August 1996 and 21.7 per cent in 1995.

Rover's slice of the market also slipped back further, from 10.2 per cent to 9.7 per cent. The figure includes a record breaking performance at Land Rover, which sold 7,700 off-road vehicles.

Another loser was Volkswagen, which has suffered from shortages of the new Passat and has been caught out by unprecedented demand for the long-running Golf, which is due for replacement in the new year.

Manufacturers and dealers yesterday showed their increasing frustration with the Government, which has still not decided to agree to the industry's plan for a two-yearly number change in March and September.

Alan Pulham from the Retail Motor Industry Federation said: "This is sitting on ministers' desks and we can't understand

why. It's not political and now the manufacturers and dealers have united on a solution."

August has taken a steadily larger share of the market in recent years. Last month will account for around 25 per cent of registrations in 1997, whereas in the record sales year of 1989 it made up just 22 per cent.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades committee, said it was still not clear how much money from the free share windfalls would eventually reach the high street, and he believed there would be more to come.

But the survey showed there was no need to tighten interest

rate policy for now, he said. "Growth in underlying sales remains relatively stable," he said.

The survey showed a balance of 22 per cent of retailers reporting increased sales last month, compared with 32 per cent who had expected a pick-up. The detail suggested that areas such as household goods and furniture, where spending might be windfall-related, had slowed down sharply.

One worrying aspect was that the proportion of deliveries retailers took from overseas suppliers was the highest since May 1990.

But economists cautioned

that the CBI survey can be erratic from month to month. "It is too early to interpret this fall-back in spending as spelling the end of the current consumer upswing," said Richard Iley at ABN-Amro.

Indeed, the retailers surveyed said business was still above-normal for the time of year. They expect a rebound this month.

At Dixons' annual meeting the chairman Sir Stanley Kalms told shareholders that the rate of increase in sales had moderated from the exceptionally high levels in the first nine weeks of the current financial year.

Comment, page 21

Directors' share buying points to rising market

 Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Merrill Lynch yesterday forecast a 17 per cent rise in the London stock market over the next 12 months. The investment bank's prediction came as it unveiled figures showing that directors who are buying shares in their own companies are outstripping sellers by the widest margin for five years.

The broker said the high level of director buying was only one of several indicators pointing to a continuation of the bull market, despite a separate prediction that inflation would rise to 4 per cent in 1999 and interest rates reach 8 per cent by the end of next year.

Speaking at a global strategy conference in London yesterday, Philip Wolstencroft, UK equity strategist, said institutional investors' historically high cash positions and a slump in the supply of new shares on the market painted a bullish picture for the stock market.

He contrasted London with the US equity market, where shares are more highly priced compared to bonds than for six years. Directors are strong sellers of shares in their own companies and market sentiment is unduly bullish.

During August, UK directors buying shares in their own companies exceeded sellers by a ratio of 3.6 to one. That was the highest since 1992, when shares

were at historically low levels thanks to the high interest rates prevailing in the run-up to the pound's election from the exchange rate mechanism.

According to Merrill Lynch, the ratio of buyers to sellers exceeds 2.5 relatively rarely. Since 1986, it has happened only 17 times but on 16 of those occasions shares have subsequently outperformed cash over the following 12 months. The average outperformance was 15 per cent.

One of the reasons for the strong buying has been the relative underperformance of large sections of the stock market, which has been driven by a very narrow cross-section of companies. Stripping out the banks, pharmaceuticals and oil companies, which have risen in value by almost 60 per cent since the beginning of 1996, the rest of the FTSE 100 has risen by less than 20 per cent. The FTSE 250 index of second-liners has fared even less well.

Merrill Lynch is maintaining a bullish stance despite the expectation of Paul Turnbull, its UK economist, that inflation will continue to rise over the next two years, driven by a rapid tightening in the labour market and accelerating earnings.

Unemployment is expected to fall to 1.25 million by the end of 1998. According to Mr Turnbull, that will push growth in average earnings from 4.25 per cent in June to 5.5 per cent by the second half of next year.



Eddie George: Will answer to the Treasury Committee

MPs seek veto on Brown's appointments

 Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

MPs on the Treasury Select Committee could seek the power of veto over the Chancellor's appointments to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

In a seminar held yesterday by the influential committee, US-style confirmation hearings for candidates for its top jobs emerged as the front-runner for increasing the accountability of the newly independent Bank to Parliament.

Some of the prominent experts present saw hearings on these appointments as a means of preventing a Chancellor of

the Exchequer from making politically motivated choices.

The Treasury Committee, chaired by Giles Radice, hopes to report within two months how it will carry out its enhanced role in scrutinising interest rate policy.

In a letter to Mr Radice in July, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said he would like it to take on this responsibility. The Treasury Committee has since begun a big consultation process.

In the week after May's election, Mr Brown handed the job of setting interest rates in order to meet the inflation target over to the Bank of England. But the Chancellor continues to set the target himself.

At yesterday's seminar - held under the "Chatham House" rule of not identifying participants, but including senior politicians and bankers, academics, economists from the City and industry, and journalists - there was much support for the idea that the Bank of England should be asked to give evidence on its broad analysis of the economy and government policy as well as on its narrow task of hitting the inflation target.

In his announcement of the Bank's independence, Mr Brown emphasised that its task involved supporting growth and jobs as far as this was consistent with keeping inflation on target.

There was also strong backing at yesterday's meeting for the Treasury Committee continuing to monitor the Government's choice of inflation target as well as other aspects of its economic policy such as the Budget.

The committee is considering questions such as how often it should hold sessions grilling the Bank, what information it should ask for, whether it should question the Governor, Eddie George, only or all the members of the Monetary Policy Committee, and whether it should publish its own regular reports on the inflation outlook.

However, the idea of MPs playing a role in Bank ap-

pointments emerged as the most prominent proposal. Experts advised that the US system of Congressional approval for appointments to the Federal Reserve Board did not lead to the frequent use of Congress's veto power but did ensure that the names of unsuitable candidates were not put forward.

The Bank is unlikely to have any serious objections to this idea. However, the Treasury Committee will need to act swiftly if it wants to get these powers included in the Bank of England Bill. With the tight Parliamentary timetable it will have at most a few weeks to influence the drafting.

Comment, page 21

Signet reports first profit for seven years

Signet, the H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery group, reported its first interim profit for seven years yesterday, buoyed by a strong performance in the US, writes Nigel Cope.

In America, Signet is the second-largest jewellery group after Zales and profits there rose 16 per cent, boosted by a better product range and lower bad debt charges.

In the UK, performance was steady with profits flat but like-for-like sales up 3.3 per cent. James McAdam, chairman, said consumer confidence was strong in Britain but Signet had not seen a wave of spending prompted by the building society windfalls.

Another said: "It does seem to be turning executive search

spent on other things such as holidays and cars," he said.

Signet reported a pre-tax profit of £1.9m for the six months to 2 August. This compares with a £6m loss last time. The company said the group was heavily reliant on the Christmas trading period but said progress in the first half had been encouraging.

Signet is continuing its modernisation of the H Samuel chain. So far 51 of the shops have been updated and a further 119 will be refurbished before the Christmas season.

Like-for-like sales in the modernised stores increased by 6.9 per cent in the period compared with an increase of just 0.8 per cent in the older outlets.

WH Smith looks to US for a new chief executive

 Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Institutional investors in WH Smith expressed renewed concern about the company yesterday as it emerged that the beleaguered retailer had ruled out all the external candidates for the chief executive post and decided to widen the search.

Shareholders are worried that the decision to look further afield for potential candidates, including in Europe and North America, will cause severe delays to the appointment and exacerbate the feeling of drift within the business. "It looks as if they can't find anyone to take the job," one shareholder said.

Another said: "It does seem to be turning executive search

into a spectator sport. It is pretty unimpressive and doesn't reflect well on any of them."

WH Smith admitted that Stuart Rose, the former Burton director, was no longer in the running. However, the group dismissed reports that WH Smith's chairman, Jeremy Hardie, had been keen to appoint Mr Rose but had been overruled by the non-executive directors, who include Pearson's chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, and Barclays Bank's chief executive, Martin Taylor.

The three internal candidates, Alan Giles, John Hancock and Richard Handover, are all still interested in the job though it is understood they are disheartened by the group's decision to look further afield.

Miners' unions to meet Battle in effort to save Asfordby pit

 Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Unions representing more than 500 employees at the threatened Asfordby "superpit" are to meet next week with John Battle, the industry minister, in a bid to halt its closure.

The delegation, led by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM), will suggest several schemes to save the pit, owned by RJB Mining, which was shut down last month after just two years of production. The meeting was due to take place earlier this week but was postponed until next Tuesday following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

UDM will urge ministers to take over the pit using the Coal Authority, the licensing body left after the privatisation of British Coal. One proposal was to mothball the site, which cost taxpayers £520m to develop, as a future energy resource.

UDM's preferred option would be to implement an abandoned RJB plan to build 17 new small coal faces. The company blamed "severe" geological problems with a 240-metre-long face for the closure decision, though it admitted two 60-metre faces were making a small profit.

UDM would then seek funding in 18 months' time to build a 3,500-metre roadway under the Vale of Belvoir, bypassing the geological difficulties, at a cost of up to £150m.

Neil Greatrex, the union's president, said: "RJB may say they don't need the coal now, but in 20 years' time the situation will be different. Time is running out and that's why it's important to get help from the Government."

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed the meeting, though Mr Battle has already indicated the pit's future is the responsibility of RJB. "The unions have asked to see him and he's agreed to their request," said a DTI spokesman.

Yesterday RJB began interviewing 300 of Asfordby's miners for alternative jobs at three of its pits, Daw Mill in Warwickshire, and Harworth and Maltby near Doncaster. At least half of the 520 staff now look set to leave the company.

"How many of the 300 that expressed an interest in moving to other pits make a formal application will become clear in the next few weeks," an RJB spokesman said.

Mr Greatrex said workers at Asfordby had never considered a direct buyout of the mine, though they were examining possible joint ventures. The pit will be maintained by RJB until late October, after which the two deep shafts will be filled in and the huge concrete winding towers demolished.

STOCK MARKETS				
	Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)
FTSE 100	4976.90	+24.70	+0.5	5086.80
FTSE 250	4646.50	+13.30	+0.3	4729.40
FTSE 350	2394.20	+10.90	+0.5	2438.00
FTSE SmallCap	2257.47	+7.47	+0.3	2374.20
FTSE All-Share	2338.29	+10.47	+0.4	2378.39
New York	7896.50	+16.72	+0.2	8299.31
Tokyo	18735.17	+502.66	+2.8	20681.07
Hong Kong	14713.99	+578.66	+7.1	16673.27
Frankfurt	4103.65	+58.28	+1.4	4438.93

INTEREST RATES				
	Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	1 Year
1 Month	7.06	7.50	6.89	7.91
3 Months	7.06	7.50	6.89	7.91
6 Months	7.06	7.50	6.89	7.91
1 Year	7.06	7.50	6.89	7.91

CURRENCIES				
	£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	£/A\$
100	1.5835	1.5835	1.5835	1.5835
100	1.5835	1.5835	1.5835	1.5835
100	1.5835	1.5835	1.5835	1.5835

OTHER INDICATORS				
	Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)
Oil Brent	18.2418	+0.16	+0.9	22.22
Gold	322.75	+0.3	+0.9	36.81
Gold	203.82	+1.48	+0.7	246.80

The economy must take its medicine regularly

COMMENT

Although things are looking hunky-dory right now, by this time next year we could be seeing a yawning trade deficit, declining growth, a falling pound and rising inflation.

There is still a strong whiff of the late 1980s about the atmosphere of central London, with its shortage of taxis and restaurant seats, and a plethora of cranes and scaffolding. But there are also a few straws in the wind suggesting that the economy is already coming to heel. It is far too early to spot a trend with only a survey or two to rely on, but economists are hoping that the purchasing managers' reports earlier this week and yesterday's CBI sales survey mean the economy is gliding gently towards sustainable growth.

If this turns out to be the case, it will be an early and striking justification of the Chancellor's decision to give the Bank of England its independence. It will also vindicate the Bank's decision to increase interest rates for four months on the trot, despite an intense lobbying effort against it by industrialists complaining about the strength of the pound.

So far, the Bank's handling of the interest rates seems to have been remarkably clever. It has also managed to take the steam out of the pound's ascent by issuing a statement which brought expectations about future interest rates back down to earth.

But even if growth does now slow down, despite the boost from windfall spending, the pound and its likely effects on exports will remain one of the big worries for the economy. New figures on car and high street sales show unambiguously that imports are climbing at an alarming rate. Recent industry surveys have also suggested a dive in export orders.

So even if the Bank has applied the right medicine, the economy will still have to go through one of the symptoms of overheating in the form of a wider trade deficit.

Nor is it certain that inflation will stay on target without further interest rate increases, even if the economy is already slowing. Inflation lags growth by two years or more, and all forecasts show it is on a rising trend. There is a good case for arguing that it might climb above the 3.5 per cent upper limit on the Government's target without another dose of Bank medicine.

So although the economy is looking hunky-dory right now, by this time next year we could be seeing a yawning trade deficit, declining growth, a falling pound and rising inflation. Sensible policies since 1 May mean these will not be as bad as they might, but there is no guarantee that because the boom is short it means no hangover.

How independent is the Bank of England?

It was always an obvious criticism of Gordon Brown's "made in Britain" approach to an independently determined monetary policy that cynicism alone would in practice continue to give him a big say over interest rate decisions. Of the Bank of England's nine-member monetary policy committee, four are appointed directly by the Chancellor from outside the Bank. Of the Bank's five appointments, three are in effect Brown nominees

since the Bank's Governor and two deputy Governors, all of whom automatically sit on the committee, are all chosen by the Government. It might be argued that even the remaining two members of the committee are tainted, since they are appointed by the Governor, who in turn is appointed by the Chancellor. Though Mr Brown would presumably never attempt to influence any of these people directly on the day-to-day conduct of policy, nor could he be expected to appoint anyone who was overtly on the other side of the fence politically, or who didn't broadly share his economic and social views.

In summary, how independent is the newly independent Bank of England likely to be? To work successfully, any anti-inflation policy requires a large degree of consensus between central bank and the politicians who ultimately control it. Any central bank which over a prolonged period of time pursued a policy which the elected Government of the country doesn't want must be doomed to oblivion. So these criticisms of Labour's approach to Bank of England independence might seem nit-picking.

Even so, perception is all in the establishment of a credible monetary policy and if there is any question of compromise or a political agenda in the way interest rates are set, then the battle is lost. The suggestion, then, that all appointments should be "positive vetted" by the cross-party Treasury Select Committee is a good one which the Government ought to welcome. The system already plainly works well in the US, where

the mere threat that Congress might veto an appointment to the Federal Reserve prevents the Administration opting for obviously biased candidates.

Raising the life time of these appointments from three to six years also seems a reasonable thing, since this would establish continuity and limit the Government's ability to change committee members that don't suit its political purposes. It is to be hoped that both these measures might be incorporated into the new Bank of England Bill, due to be published in about three weeks' time.

GEC package gives too much to too few

George Simpson, managing director of GEC, arrives at today's annual meeting with enough promises in his back pocket to steamroller through the group's latest and most generous executive remuneration scheme. The victory will be a Pyrrhic one since a large minority of shareholders will have voted against the package while more still will have abstained in silent protest.

GEC cannot be faulted for wanting to find ways of rewarding its senior staff better after the parsimony of the Weinstock years. Nor can a scheme which aligns the interests of executives more closely with those of shareholders be a bad thing. If Lord Simpson is to turn his blueprint for GEC into reality after a long period of false dawns and share price underperformance, then what better

way than to harness together the fortunes of the company and those who run it? GEC has increasingly discovered that when it comes to recruiting and retaining top-flight executive material, then the blunt instrument of the annual bonus is not always sufficient.

So far so Greenbury correct. Where the remuneration package being voted on today comes unstuck is in the sheer size of the fortunes that a small group of executives stand to make and the modest performance targets they will have to meet for the cash registers to open. Admittedly, only 30 or so of the 200 executives to whom the package applies will be in line for "super options", but they stand to earn eight times their salary (not counting, of course, the annual performance payment topped up by a quarter in the form of bonus shares). Rewards on this scale are surely excessive in an established organisation like GEC. Amazingly, it only requires GEC to achieve median performance against its peers in the FTSE 100 to trigger the exercise of the super options.

The architect of this scheme is the unmentioned Lord Rees Mogg, who retired tomorrow as a non-executive and chairman of the remuneration committee. After today's hubbub has died down, the new intake of non-execs, including Reed Elsevier's Nigel Stapleton and Baroness Dunn, should take a fresh look at the remuneration package. They should start by telling Lord Simpson that when he decided to distribute GEC's cash pile, the idea was not to shower quite so much in the direction of his top executives.

Psion puts faith in new model as profits slump

Sameena Ahmad

A profit warning from Psion, the hand-held computer maker, failed to leave a permanent dent in the company's share price yesterday after David Potter, its chairman and founder, boasted that the new Series 5 model was "walking off the shelves".

Shares in the company had a volatile session but ended the day higher despite Psion warning that the continuing strength of the pound and the impact of the Series 5 launch on sales of existing models would mean full-year profits failing to reach last year's £16m level. The share price, which has fallen 25 per cent in the last three

months, opened 35p lower at 292p, before rising to 338.5p and falling back to 337.5p, 10.5p higher on the day.

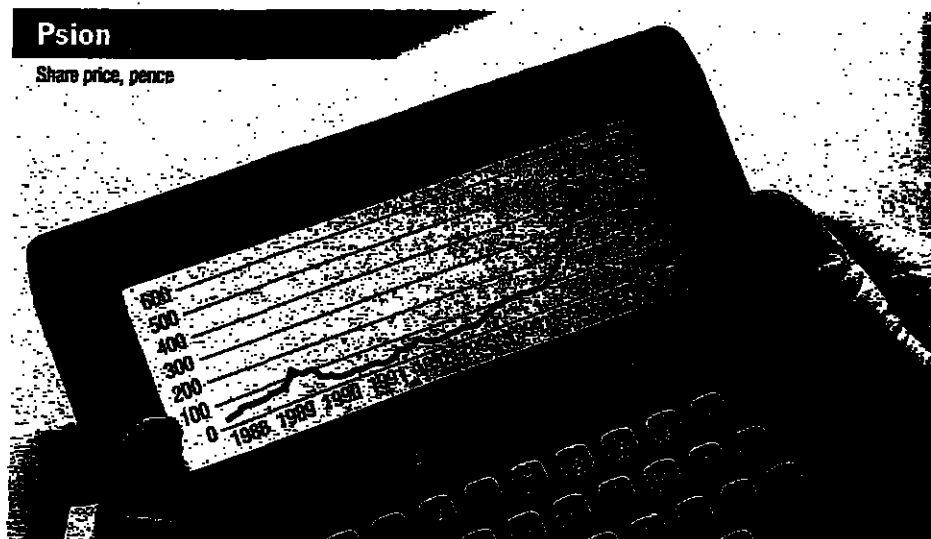
Mr Potter denied that there had been serious production problems with the Series 5, though there had been small difficulties with one supplier of plastic parts. He said the group would meet its 40,000-unit target by the fourth quarter.

The Series 5, which incorporates the group's new 32-bit operating system and cost almost £30m to develop, has the power of a large lap-top and a touch screen operated by a stylus. It will provide electronic mail, access to the Internet and the ability to incorporate

mobile telephone technology.

"We are well past the transition stage," said Mr Potter. "I am delighted to say this product has gone through the usual barriers. Reviews and reception has been terrific. The problem is meeting demand. Demand is so high that there is no stock left. We never said at the time of launch that we had put legs on the Series 5, but we must have - it is walking off the shelves."

Psion's half-year results to June were less impressive. Pre-tax profits fell 38 per cent to £4.1m on sales 20 per cent lower at £64m and gross profit margins a full 5 points lower. Strong growth in Continental



Europe, where sales rose 55 per cent to £23m, was offset by a £3m hit to profits from the stronger pound, a 54 per cent rise in research costs and extra staff, and falling sales in the US. Retailers, particularly in the UK, had been destocking the Series 3 organiser in the first quarter in readiness for the launch in June of the Series 5, which also badly affected results. Sales in the UK rose just 8 per

cent to £28m. Mr Potter said the UK destocking was reversing as retailers recognised that the Series 5, priced well above the Series 3 at up to £500, was targeted at a different market.

He said a £100 cut in the price of the Series 3 model to £299 would help that differentiation. Although sales in the second half would be stronger, the transition to the 32-bit technology and the strong pound

would mean profits for the year would fall short of last year's levels.

While Mr Potter was "paranoid" about competition and the US remained a difficult market, he said there was no similar model to the Series 5 and that Psion's operating system EPOC32 was superior to Windows CE, the Microsoft operating system for hand-held computers.

Sema defends rail inquiry line

Sameena Ahmad

Sema, the Anglo-French computer services company which supplies all the UK's train timetable and train fare information, yesterday hit out at a report in the consumer magazine *Which?* claiming that rail passengers telephoning the National Rail Inquiry Service were given inaccurate information on 41 out of 70 occasions.

Peter Cook, who runs BR Business Systems, the train planning company bought by Sema in January this year, defended the inquiry service, which uses information supplied by Sema and employees from Sema, another UK computer services company.

"The researchers picked particularly complex journey issues which meant the database had to answer a lot of complex questions," he said. *Which?* found, for instance,

that the inquiry service gave the right price just four out of 21 times when researchers asked about the cost of travelling from Basingstoke in Hampshire to Carlisle in Cumbria and returning via London. Mr Cook said that because customers now always got an answer when they telephoned for information it was understandable that complaints were rising.

He said the amount of information was also increasingly complex: "We have 144 million fares on our database and information on 20,000 trains a day. That is enormous complexity that was never dealt with by BR." Mr Cook said that Sema was training Sema's employees to use the database, but the employees were stretched: "Sema's workers are handling two and a half times the number of calls that they were employed to handle. We are training them as fast as Sema can hire them."

Liquidators win £1.3bn Cayman ruling on BCCI

John Willcock

Liquidators to the Cayman Islands part of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) hope to recover "hundreds of millions of dollars" for creditors following a court ruling against a former associate of the crashed bank worth \$2.1bn (£1.3bn).

The Court of Appeal in the Cayman Islands granted the damages against Ghalib Rashid Pharaon, a financier now resident in Saudi Arabia, and his company Pharaon Holdings.

In the late 1980s Mr Pharaon "co-mingled" his own operation International Credit and Investment Company (ICIC) with that of BCCI, with the intention of illegally acquiring US banks.

When regulators closed BCCI down in 1991, because of long-term large-scale fraud, they lumped ICIC in with the rest of the liquidation. In one illegal operation, for instance, ICIC managed to buy an American bank of Encino, California, in 1985, via another company, Attock Oil.

The latest court ruling sets the amount Mr Pharaon owes to creditors. It follows a ruling on 22 May 1995 in which the Cayman Islands courts found that Mr Pharaon "was found to have participated in a conspiracy of oil interests held by the Attock Oil Company".

Mr Pharaon has four criminal indictments against him in the US and has also been fined a total of \$37m by the US Federal Reserve over his attempts to buy US banks illegally.

A spokesman for Deloitte & Touche said yesterday that they were confident they would be able to recover hotels and real estate holdings belonging to Mr Pharaon worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

BCCI was registered in three separate jurisdictions, London, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, and sets of liquidators have been appointed by the courts for each jurisdiction.

Last year the US Federal Reserve permanently barred Mr Pharaon from US banking.

IN BRIEF

Hambro reveals new plan for Saracen

JO Hambro has submitted new proposals to Saracen Value Trust after being told its initial takeover plan for the underperforming company was not feasible. The new scheme, which will cost £1.1m, offers shareholders a choice between receiving cash or taking shares in a new trust that will continue to invest in small companies but with substantially different holdings. Hambro's main rival, Invesco, is planning to offer Saracen shareholders a switch into Invesco's existing English & International trust, a unit trust or a cash alternative. The Saracen board will meet this morning to decide its next moves, but it is unlikely anything will be put formally to an extraordinary meeting on 18 September at which a third offer, from HSBC, is to be considered. Saracen shares fell 1p to 97p.

M&S director makes £278,000 on options

Keith Oates, deputy chairman and joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, made a profit of £278,000 from exercising share options. Mr Oates exercised a senior option over 37,815 shares at 254p and then sold the stake at 607.5p a share. He exercised another senior option over a further 51,063 shares at 329p and subsequently sold at 612p. The shares were registered in the name of Greenwood Nominees Limited.

Interim profits up 30% at Senior

Senior Engineering expressed confidence in the future after reporting a 30 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £21m for the half year to June. Alan Watkins, chairman, said the significant improvement had been particularly evident in North American operations, now 70 per cent of the operating total. The Flexcoats business, 90 per cent of the total, looked set to produce a strong contribution in 1997. Although operating profits dipped from £3.94m to £2.04m in engineered products and services he said that "overall, we continue to be confident of another year of real progress for the group". The interim dividend is raised 11 per cent to 1.6p.

First Gas raises funds for Philippine deal

A joint venture company including BG, the former British Gas, has raised £425m to build a gas-fired power station in the Philippines. First Gas Power Corporation, in which BG has a 40 per cent stake, will use the funds to complete the project, on Luzon island, which is expected to cost £255m. BG said the fund-raising exercise was the first in which the European Investment Bank had loaned money to an Asian power venture. In June First Gas agreed a deal with Shell and Occidental to buy gas from an offshore field in the Philippines.

Enterprise buys 94 pubs from Whitbread

Enterprise Inns is buying 94 pubs in the South of England from Whitbread for £9.4m cash. The pubs sold approximately 10,500 barrels of Whitbread-supplied beer, excluding guest ales, in the year to February 1997. The outlets formed part of the Whitbread Pub Partnership estate and are run as leases or tenancies. Licensees have the opportunity to transfer to Enterprise Inns agreements. Separately, Enterprise Inns announced that it had recently acquired eight former managed houses from Pubmaster for £1.6m.

Northern Rock brokers set up helpline

Wise Speke, the stockbroker to the flotation of Northern Rock Building Society, has set up a helpline for members to advise them on the best way of dealing with their windfall share allowance, which could be worth up to £2,000. Members can call 0191-201 3990.

Magic boost for Greene King

Greene King's chairman, David McCall, told the annual meeting that profits were ahead and benefiting from the Magic acquisition. "We have had a good start to the financial year. With the continuing benefits of the Magic acquisition, our profits are well ahead of last year and meeting current budgets."

Home Office 2

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Wetherspoon may open pubs in Paris

Andrew Yates

JD Wetherspoon, the rapidly expanding pub group, said yesterday it was looking to make its first foray overseas by opening a chain of pubs in Paris. Tim Martin, the group's chairman, said he was looking at sites in Paris and was also considering opening pubs in capital cities across Europe.

Wetherspoon also moved to deflect criticism that Mr Martin wielded too much power at the group by promoting the operating director, John Hutson, to managing director.

Mark McQuater, Wetherspoon's previous managing director, resigned last November after less than three years with the company, amid specula-

tion that Mr Martin was unwilling to relinquish control of the group he founded. Mr Martin did concede yesterday that the group needed to strengthen its board to reflect the expansion business.

On expansion, Mr Martin said: "There are more Britons in Paris than there are in Reading and we like the idea of moving into Ireland."

Wetherspoon has also embarked on an accelerated UK pub opening programme. It plans to open 350 outlets by 2001 at a rate of more than one a week.

The group is intent on growing its presence outside London and has recently opened pubs in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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business

Sema throws its weight around

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Sema, the Anglo-French information technology group, always had the air of a heavyweight, even when it was a fraction of its current size.

Though not yet a member of the FTSE 100 index, it can hardly be long before this fast-growing systems integration and outsourcing company, employing 150,000 people and capitalised at £1.6bn, is promoted.

Shares in Sema have outperformed the market by 144 per cent over the past five years.

Less than two years ago, Sema's share price stood at less than 500p. Today, ahead 7.5p after strong half-year results, the price is over £14. That reflects the impressive pace of change wrought at the group in the past few years by Pierre Bonelli, the group's charismatic chief executive.

What initially released the group's share price was the sale in late 1995 of Cap Gemini's 28 per cent stake. Before that, Sema had been 41 per cent owned collectively by Gemini, Paribas and France Telecom, and trading in the group's shares was rocky at best.

Since then, Sema has not put a foot wrong. Acquisitions such as Olivetti's Italian outsourcing arm, Syntax, and BR Business Systems, which supplies the fare and timetabling database for Britain's railways, have shown Sema's ability to buy potentially high-growth businesses for bargain-basement prices.

The company has also been highly successful in developing global critical mass. The US, which represents just 1 per cent of sales, has until now remained out of reach.

But the recent overhaul of its complex shareholding structure means that Sema is no longer classified under US banking law as a bank.

As a bank, Sema was severely constrained in the US, able to supply only certain types of financial products, such as billing and related software systems for mobile phones.

Now that the Paribas stake has been converted into a simple minority shareholding, the US is open season for Sema.

With more than half the world market in outsourcing and systems integration in the US and huge opportunities in telecoms, that is pretty good news for shareholders.

Mr Bonelli says he would be disappointed if the US did not represent at least 10 per cent of group activities by 2001.

Any concerns that Sema might get stuck in the maturing defence and energy markets look groundless.

Half-year results to June, where profits rose 32 per cent to £26m, show that finance has overtaken defence as Sema's largest sector, with telecoms

growth a hefty 91 per cent on the previous year, boosted by acquisitions. UBS forecasts £63.5m profits for the full year. Though a forward price-earnings ratio of 37 is steep, this one should keep going.

Hillsdown sticks with diverse menu

Little more than a year into the job of chief executive of Hillsdown Holdings, the food and house-building conglomerate, and George Greener is already speaking glowingly about his new charge. His sentences are studded with management gobbledegook such as "economic value added", "mutuality of benefit" and the dreaded "core competencies".

But the City will forgive him much more than this if he can kick-start a company whose shares have underperformed the market by 34 per cent in the past three years. On yesterday's evidence, there is a way to go yet.

With his strategic review completed, it is clear there will be no radical shake-up of the Hillsdown portfolio, which still

includes a diverse spread of businesses, including Typhoon tea, ready-made meals and Fairview Homes. There are no plans to sell the non-food businesses. Instead Hillsdown plans to withdraw from its red meat operations and sell a host of other businesses in packaging and leather with total assets of £85m. Talks on deals are well advanced and the company is planning a £30m write-down in the full-year figures.

But, looking at Hillsdown's half-year figures, it is clear that there are potential dangers ahead. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose from £4.4m to £5.7m. But at the operating level, profits at three of the four food businesses fell. The figures were rescued by a strong performance from the furniture and house-building businesses, which are clearly benefiting from the upswing in the economic cycle.

The worry is that when the economy comes off the boil, Hillsdown will hit the buffers unless its food businesses can start generating growth. At the moment they are very much a mixed bag. The chilled business is performing well, poultry was badly affected by a freak viral outbreak in the sector which cost £2.5m, and the grocery businesses are struggling.

On forecasts of £165m, the shares, up 6.5p to 169.5p yesterday, trade on a forward rating of just 10. This is a substantial discount to the sector, while a yield of more than 6 per cent provides support.

But the City will want to see more evidence of growth in food before the shares enjoy a re-rating. Potentially a good bet, but perhaps too early to chase just now.

Scholl starts to stride ahead

Scholl is a brand name which has fallen on hard times over the years. From 1995, the maker of the famous wooden-soled sandals and corn plasters was at the centre of a bitter dispute with shareholders, but new management, led by ex-Fisons boss Stuart Wallis, is at last starting to lead the group out of the mire.

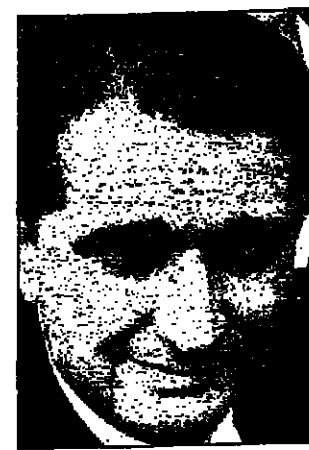
A clear-out of underperformers, alongside a decision to fix the focus single-mindedly on the Scholl brand, has already worked wonders for operating margins, which have jumped by more than a third in the six months to June. The effects of that on yesterday's interim results are muddled both by the £35.7m exceptional charge taken last time and the negative impact of the pound in the latest figures. At the pre-tax level, losses of £21.9m turned into a surplus of £15.4m, but stripping out the effects of one-offs and exchange rates, underlying operating profits were up 25 per cent. There is still a bit more to go for on margins. But the real test for Mr Wallis and his team is to prove their ability to build the top line.

Scholl has strong positions in some markets, notably the bunnions to deodorant footwear products business and in sandals and other footwear sold through chemists. The hope is that further expansion into children's services at its 90 European retail outlets and new products will get sales moving.

Only time will tell, but there should be scope to pump more products through the distribution network. The management is also ready to contemplate acquisitions with firepower which could be worth up to £100m. Meantime, there are no talks with Schering Plough. Scholl's original owner, about buying the US operations, the one part of the business Schering still retains, but the possibility of Schering bidding for Scholl plc could provide some support for the shares, up 7p at 286p yesterday. At that level, they stand on a forward p/e of 17, assuming profits of £22.5m in the full year. Reasonable value.

Mutuality hero steps back from his cause

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



John Wriglesworth: Setting up his own consultancy

What's left of the mutual building society sector is aghast at the news that John Wriglesworth, the self-styled champion of mutuality against the dark forces of conversion, has deserted Bradford & Bingley building society for the verdant pastures of his own "strategic communications consultancy". If Mr Wriglesworth's leaving, of all people, then surely B&B and the rest are about to surrender to the carpetbaggers?

"No, no, no, Bradford & Bingley are absolutely committed to staying mutual. My leaving does not mean they are going to convert," Mr Wriglesworth assures me. "It was all amicable. Bradford & Bingley are going to be one of my first clients."

Mr Wriglesworth will leave his job as director of marketing in October to launch his own London-based consultancy. He will not have to move house, he says, although he's flogging his flat in Yorkshire. He has a home in Clapham, south London.

Mr Wriglesworth, 40, joined B&B three years ago from UBS, where he was just about the only person you could phone for a quote on the state of the building society market.

Bizarrely, Mr Wriglesworth is also a former champion of demutualisation, having drawn up the master plan for Abbey National's conversion into a bank in 1989. Before that he had been an academic, an economics lecturer and admissions tutor.

"If any societies are thinking of converting, they should call me up first and I'll save them," he says. "Slaying mutuality is not a dead duck or a disaster. This lending-like stampede to become banks will come to a sticky end, with converted societies being asset stripped."

Shy and retiring former Euro-tunnel boss Sir Alastair Morton has got a new part-time job advising the ABB-Daimler Benz rail joint

dropping like flies towards the end. I hear, despite the excellence of the speech.

Not to worry, everyone left happy, with one attendee describing the sumptuous feast at the stately home-turned-hotel as "the do of the decade". Former Smith New Court boss Michael Marks hosted the event in his new role as Merrill's chief operating officer for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, while his old number two at Farringdon Road, Paul Roy, also gave a short speech.

While Sir Desmond Pitcher continues to fight for his corporate life at United Utilities, one of his directors is defecting to Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. Simon Bird, United's executive director of international operations, is joining the Liverpool company as commercial director. Mersey Docks and Harbour is in the depths of a bitter dockers' strike. Sounds like a case of out of the frying pan, into the fire.

UBS has lost its global head of research, Nigel Lester, to Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which has appointed him director of marketing and client services for its equities division. Mr Lester left UBS two months ago and the Swiss bank has yet to decide how to replace him. At Kleinwort he will be in charge of the "client visiting programme" which sounds like a lot of flying around and a lot of dinners.

Former Wall Street high-flyer Bob Diamond has made such a splash at BZW since he joined as chief executive of global markets in July 1996 that he's been promoted to the Barclays Bank executive committee.

A spokesperson for the investment bank said Mr Diamond had "streamlined" the business and relaunched the team "since he arrived from CSFB in New York."

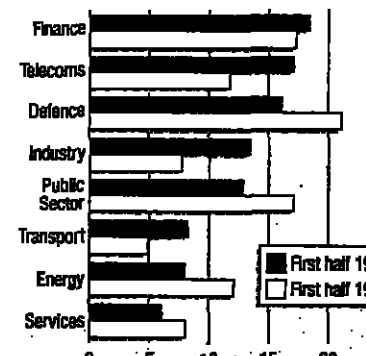
John Willcock

Sema: At a glance

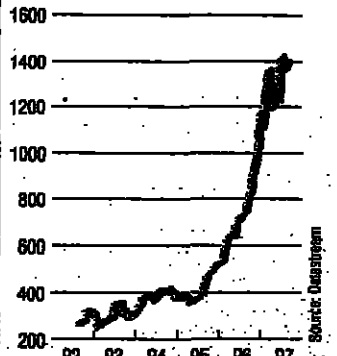
Market value: £1.58bn, share price 1407.5p (+7.5p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997
		Full year		half year	
Turnover (£m)	996	678	927	423	500
Pre-tax profits (£m)	29.5	36.9	50.0	19.8	28.2
Earnings per share (p)	20.7	24.3	30.5	12.9	16.03
Dividends per share (p)	4.00	5.00	6.00	2.3	2.8

Turnover by market sector (%)



Share price pence



Redevelopment will close Wembley for two years

Andrew Yates

Wembley, the leisure group that operates Wembley Stadium, said yesterday the ground was likely to be closed for at least two years under the latest redevelopment plans submitted to the English Sports Council. The move will mean sporting events from the FA Cup Final to England's international football games will have to be moved to alternative venues.

Negotiations between Wembley and the Sports Council have been dogged by delays. Details of the new stadium were due to be finalised this summer. However, Wembley said it was confident the revised plans would soon get the green light.

Claes Hultman, Wembley's chairman, said yesterday: "We are optimistic that this plan will be agreed soon. The stadium will have to be knocked down. It will take two years to finish."

The scheme has been given a provisional grant of £120m from the National Lottery to cover most of the development costs, although the total cost of the project is likely to approach £200m. However, Wembley moved to allay fears that the project would suffer from a lack of funds. Mr Hultman said: "We are in complex negotiations at the moment but we do not expect any funding problems." Wembley's

finance director said the group was not likely to have to pay out any extra money for the development, raising speculation that the Government will eventually plug the funding gap. Wembley had hoped to keep part of the stadium open throughout the redevelopment and is to receive compensation for loss of earnings during the refit. The loss of a US legal dispute, which cost Wembley £16.7m, saw the group plunge

into the red. It made a pre-tax loss of £3m for the six months to June.

The case involved a dispute between the PCC ticketing agency, once owned by Wembley, and US rival Moviephone, with whom the group entered into a co-operation agreement. But problems emerged when PCC was sold to Ticketmaster, who did not maintain the original agreement. Wembley's underlying pre-tax profits also

slipped from £15.6m to £14.2m due to impact of the huge success of Euro 96 football tournament on last year's figures.

Operating profits from the Wembley complex fell to £5.7m (£7.91m). Revenue at Wembley Arena fell due to a lack of big-name draws. However, the group said that concerns from a host of stars, including Elton John and Gary Glitter, should ensure the arena earnings rose in the second half.

Royal Doulton looks to dish up £1.5m in cost cuts next year



Royal Doulton's chief executive, Patrick Wenger, refused to rule out further job cuts at the company's UK base in Stoke following the recent announcement of 330 redundancies out of a workforce of 4,800.

The company is "looking at the cost base around the world", he said yesterday. These measures, which include a reduction in the size of the board to five executive directors from nine, are aimed at saving £1.5m in costs next year.

The strength of sterling in the first half knocked £4.5m off sales, and sales to tourists at the company's central London retail outlets were down 10 per cent. Group turnover in the first half fell by 2.2 per cent to £141.6m and pre-tax profits, after taking account of a £3.3m exceptional charge, fell from £4.2m to £1m.

The company will hold on to its traditional formal tableware market but future growth will be driven by casual tableware (left), glass and cold-cast gift products.

Vardon whips its health clubs into shape

Andrew Yates

Vardon, the leisure group that runs the London Dungeon and Sea Life Centres, yesterday announced plans to rapidly expand its health and fitness division. The group is launching a £20m capital expenditure programme on its health clubs over the next two years and has earmarked another £20m for acquisitions. Vardon also plans to expand into continental Europe by building a Dungeon visitor attraction in Amsterdam and

opening more Sea Life Centres in Germany.

However, Vardon has turned its back on the UK market. David Hudd, chairman, said: "The market in the UK probably has too many visitor attractions already and we are not looking to build any more over here." Visitors at London Dungeon have been disappointing, despite a new water ride called Judgement Day, due to the strong pound which has deterred overseas tourists from visiting the capital.

Vardon has also postponed new investment in its bingo business, which has been hit by the National Lottery. However, the group said it had no plans to dispose of the operation. Vardon acquired its health and fitness business just over a year ago when it bought Dynamic Leisure for £40.5m. Since then it has revamped the clubs it acquired and is now keen to grow the chain. Vardon recently opened a £30m Courtney's leisure centre in Croydon. It hopes to open an

other two sites in York and Wembley by the end of the year and another four centres next year. It is also expanding its Metropolitan chain.

Nick Irens, Vardon's chief executive, said yesterday: "The health and fitness market is growing strongly. We hope to make it a national business. We are also in talks to buy clubs from other operators." Vardon announced a 75 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £5.1m despite a £500,000 currency hit.

German losses deepen at Amec

Magnus Grimond

Amec, the construction group which fought off a bid from its Norwegian rivals Kvaerner at the end of 1995, yesterday painted a gloomy picture of the outlook for the business, despite deepening losses from the German operations.

Describing the outlook for the group as "certainly more favourable than at any time in recent years", the chairman, Sydney Gillibrand, revealed that the group may seek a partner for Kittelberger, its German operation, which accounted for most of the more than doubled losses of £8.9m from continental businesses in the first six months of the year.

Mr Gillibrand said they had yet to have any meaningful talks with prospective buyers of the business, while Amec stressed that they were keeping an open mind on such a sale, which would anyway be a plan for the medium or long term.

In the meantime, the rationalisation announced last year is continuing. Turnover in 1998 is set to be cut to around 60 per cent of this year's target in an attempt to reduce contract risks in the depressed German market. Separately, Mr Gillibrand

squashed rumours that the group wanted to sell its Fairclough Homes housebuilding operation, but hinted it might be merged with another group. Profits there were £4.5m in the first half, up from break-even before, after operating margins jumped from 4 to 6.5 per cent on a 31 per cent jump in the average price of houses sold to £102,600. The chairman said he wanted to retain the earnings stream "for the foreseeable future - a couple of years".

The comments came as Amec reported a jump in group pre-tax profits from £12.1m to £40.2m in the half year to June, inflated by £24.2m of gains on the disposal of peripheral businesses. As a reflection of its confidence in the future, the group is raising the interim dividend by 17 per cent to 1.75p.

Operating profits up from £18.5m to £19.8m benefited from a maiden £2m contribution from Spie Batignolles, the French construction group in which Amec bought a 42 per cent stake this year. The group bore £3m of costs from tenders under the Government's public finance initiative, up from £2m for the whole of last year, but said it expected to recover most of them in the second half.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Almeco (Investment) (P)	14.4m (0.5m)	0.80m (0.40m)	8.3p (2.5p)	1.3p (nil)
Amec Group (P)	9.8m (9.3m)	2.05m (7.36m)	56.75p (703.3p)	5p (3p)
Cable (P)	105m (61.3m)	7.25m (4.21m)	12.25p (5.59p)	3.75p (-)
Cathell (P)	165m (155m)	32.5m (14.7m)	16.3p (7.2p)	3.25p (2.8p)
Churchill China (P)	28.3m (28.8m)	2.97m (2.71m)	19.3p (17.3p)	4.9p (4.3p)
File Indemur (P)	18.4m (17.5m)	0.81m (0.58m)	3.62p (2.51p)	1.1p (1.0p)
Friendly Hotels (P)	24.2m (18.4m)	1.60m (1.21m)	3.4p (2.8p)	2.2p (2.2p)
Gibbs & Dandy (P)	17.8m (14.2m)	0.38m (0.55m)	3.3p (4.3p)	nil (-)
WAF Group (P)	7.2m (8.8m)	1.35m (2.20m)	5.05p (12.40p)	7p (7p)
IBC Group (P)	57.0m (50.0m)	8.33m (7.22m)	16.7p (14.5p)	3.7p (3.3p)
Laird Group (P)	302m (430m)	34.7m (24.1m)	18.2p (16.8p)	5.4p (4.9p)
Levor Steam (P)	3.0m (4.0m)	-0.50m (0.13m)	-1.8p (0.4p)	nil (-)
Mandara (P)	81.8m (74.0m)	1.18m (2.58m)	2.03p (0.4p)	3.1p (3.1p)
Melrose (P)	34.6m (30.1m)	2.02m (1.95m)	8.52p (8.49p)	1.5p (1.2p)
North (P)	84.4m (84.2m)	11.57m (10.89m)	11.45p (10.18p)	11.0p (-)
Palace (P)	64.4m (63.7m)	4.05m (5.51m)	3.55p (5.86p)	0.70p (0.65p)
Reardon Mining (P)	2.1m (1.9m)	-0.91m (-1.08m)	-2.3p (-3.3p)	nil (-)
Royal Doulton (P)	112m (114m)	4.32m (4.18m)	5.4p (5.3p)	2.3p (2.25p)
Sema Group (P)	500m (427m)	26.2m (18.8m)	16.03p (12.91p)	2.8p (2.3p)
Scholl (P)	97.7m (119m)	15.37m (21.9m)	12.6p (31.6p)	3.3p (3p)
Sealer Engineering (P)	240m (280m)	21.1m (16.2m)	5.04p (3.8p)	11.5p (11.4p)
Steele Group (P)	371m (370m)	1.94m (1.56m)	38.8p (27.3p)	nil (-)
Steel Barrels, Jansco (P)	18.8m (20.8m)	-0.88m (1.45m)	-1.83p (1.74p)	0.75p (0.75p)
Strathfield (P)	20.0m (18.3m)	1.46m (1.31m)	7.2p (6.4p)	3.2p (3p)
Vardon (P)	43.7m (26.6m)	5.05m (1.99m)	2.8p (1.6p)	0.8p (0.45p)
JD Williamson (P)	138m (101m)	17.6m (13.1m)	43.3p (33.6p)	10p (-)
Yorkville (P)	11.2m (11.4m)	0.77m (1.10m)	4.7p (6.9p)	2.55p (2.65p)

(P) - Profit. (I) - Income. * - Pre-tax figure before exceptional. + - Dividend to be paid as RD

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* On the basis that the issue is fully subscribed and assuming no exercise of subscription rights under the Warrants.

Copies of the prospectus dated 4 September 1997, which has been published relating to Cairngorm Demutualisation Investment Trust plc and which contains details on how to apply for ordinary shares (with warrants attached) in the Company, may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekdays (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 18 September 1997 from:

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Cairngorm Demutualisation
Investment Trust plc
20 Coates Crescent
Edinburgh EH3 7JF

and during normal business hours between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. up to and including 5 September 1997 (for collection only) from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange Tower, Old Broad Street, London EC2.

4 September 1997 JN60997

market report / shares

Data Bank

FTSE 100	4891.3	+14.4
FTSE 250	4663.6	+17.1
FTSE 350	2401.5	+7.3
SEAQ VOLUME	42,139	
Gilt 10yr	97.22	+0.02

Share spotlight

Share	Price	Change
1400		
1350		
1300		
1250		
1200		
1150		
1100		
1050		
1000		
950		
900		

Standard Chartered suffers in Far Eastern fall-out

Standard Chartered, the banking group, is emerging as the stock market's main casualty in the Far Eastern fall-out. In busy trading the shares fell a further 38.5p to 808p with talk of large lines of stock on offer. It was suggested selling was coming from South-east Asia. But Standard has only one significant Asian shareholder, Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puan, with around 15 per cent.

The Malaysian businessman, one of the so-called White Squirrels who rescued the bank from the unwanted attentions of Lloyds TSB 11 years ago, is, however, an unlikely seller. Indeed there is speculation Standard's retreat will encourage him to top up his shareholding.

Even if Far Eastern interests are remaining faithful there is no doubt the Standard share register is suffering from some determined unloading. The shares have fallen from



MARKET REPORT
DEREK PAIN
stock market reporter of the year

1,081.5p, largely on the storm which engulfed Pacific currency and share markets.

Standard's big Far Eastern exposure was highlighted yesterday by problems at its securities operation in Manila. The Philippine banking authorities are investigating alleged breaches of the country's investment laws. Standard said it was co-operating although it felt it had not broken the law.

HSBC, the market's other major Pacific victim, edged a few coppers higher to 2,042.5p, after an early fall.

The rest of the market moved narrowly with Footsie ending 14.4 points higher at 4,891.3. A Confederation of British Industry survey pointing to a retail slowdown helped sentiment and engineers, *LucasVarley*, up 8.5p to 205.5p, scored from the less ebullient display by sterling.

Dixons, indicating the pace of sales growth was easing, soft-

ened 13.5p to 651.5p, dragging Kingfisher 13.5p lower to 751.5p.

Mercury Asset Management fell 41p to 1,287.5p on worries about its performance during this year's bull market. Stockbroker BWD firmed to 125p although it was left to Charles Stanley, unchanged at 131.5p, to attempt an acquisition swoop, opening talks with Messrs Pearson to buy its Shaw & Co stockbroking arm.

British Energy, up 13p to 183.5p, was helped by an HSBC push last week Morgan Stanley put a buy sign over the shares. The second instalment of last summer's flotation is due later this month.

Ocean, the transport group, rose 10p to 583.5p, a peak after meeting institutions, and Tarmac, the building materials group, hardened 7p to 123.5p with SBC Warburg saying buy up to 150p. Amersham International, the health care group, jumped 35p to 2,025p after meeting Oslo analysts ahead of its merger with the Norwegian Nycomed group.

Publisher Mediagroup kept up the takeover action among second-liners by reporting a bid approach. The shares rose 10.5p to 39p.

Lehman Brothers and Warburg regard Bank, up 4.5p to 351.5p, as a hold following its holiday camp revamp.

Taking Stock

Williams, making a late bid for inclusion in the Footsie index, firmed to 365.5p, with NatWest Securities saying the shares were worth picking up. Toad, the loss making car security company once riding at 117.5p, reversed 4p to 29.5p, a new low. The latest sell-off followed a modest stake reduction by Newton Investment Management. It sold just over 50,000 shares, cutting its holding to 3.82 per cent.

The car alarms business has suffered a boardroom upheaval this year with four directors departing. In May it linked with TV personality Noel Edmonds.

Tradeport, the share dealing system, continued to firm ahead of next month's arrival of order driven trading.

Utility Cable, which gets most of its income laying ducts for cable television, issued, perhaps not surprisingly, a profit warning, sending its already

depressed shares even lower. But then talk of stake-building surfaced. And the price, once down to 4.5p, recovered to 5.5p in busy trading.

UC has been a poor investment with entrepreneur Luke Johnson, a director, one who has suffered. He has around 7 per cent of the company mostly picked up between 13p and 20p.

Vitalis, a video group, is rated a buy by stockbroker Greig Middleton at around 130p. Although it has produced two profit warnings in little more than three months analyst Richard Andrews believes the video-conferencing market is set to grow strongly.

He believes the shares should appeal to investors with an appetite for risk. He sees losses for the year ending July coming out at £1.5m. In the current year he expects the company to get into the black with profits of around £1m.

The stock market's neglect of small companies is throwing up some seemingly inviting investments. Beales Hunter, a refrigeration group bumping along near its year's low at 90p, is paying a final dividend of 7.8p, putting the shares on an effective 15 per cent yield. They go ex-dividend on Monday. The company, which suffered a profit fall from £2.6m to £1.7m, is capitalised at £9.5m. Its shares have been as high as 292p.

The Dow Jones Average which, of course, is a major influence on Footsie, could hit 8,500 points late this year or early next before suffering a sharp setback. That is the view of Dick McCabe, a chartered accountant at Merrill Lynch. But he feels Wall Street will gain its embers and the century should end on a high note.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: r Ex rights; Ex-dividend; Ex all a United Securities Market a Suspended; a Partly Paid; n Not Paid; Shares; & Add Stock.

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from London Stock Exchange. Simply dial 0891 123 335, and when prompted to do so, enter the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FTSE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Rates	04	Pratt & Whitney	38
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Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000	Stock	Vol/1000
BT	490000	Shell	160000	Norwich Union	170000	Swire	170000
Shell Transport	330000	S&P	160000	Heathrow	160000	Cable & Wire	160000
British Energy	220000	ASDA	160000	Heathrow	160000	National Power	160000
Carillion	220000	Carillion	160000	Heathrow	160000	Heathrow	160000
BS	160000	Carillion	160000	Heathrow	160000	Heathrow	160000

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Time	Index	Time	Index
09:00	4892.0	11:00	4892.0
10:00	4892.0	12:00	4892.0
11:00	4892.0	13:00	4892.0
12:00	4892.0	14:00	4892.0

Alcoholic Beverages AB InBev 480.00 Asahi 210.00 Carlsberg 180.00 Heineken 150.00 Kirin 120.00 Suntory 100.00 T T Denka 90.00 Yamanashi 80.00	Banks, Merchant Citigroup 120.00 HSBC 2042.50 JPMorgan 110.00 NatWest 365.50 Royal Bank 100.00 Standard Chartered 808.00 UBS 90.00	Banks, Retail Abbey 100.00 Bank of Scotland 110.00 Barclays 120.00 Lloyds TSB 130.00 NatWest 140.00 Royal Bank 150.00 Standard Chartered 160.00	Breweries, Pubs & Rest Asahi 210.00 Carlsberg 180.00 Heineken 150.00 Kirin 120.00 Suntory 100.00 T T Denka 90.00 Yamanashi 80.00	Diversified Industries Anglo American 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Engineering Vehicles Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Extractive Industries Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Food Manufacturers Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Food Distribution Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Household Goods Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Index-linked Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Mediums Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Shorts Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Undated Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Government Securities Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Mediums Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Longs Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00	Telecommunications Anglo Irish 120.00 Anglo Irish 110.00 Anglo Irish 100.00 Anglo Irish 90.00 Anglo Irish 80.00 Anglo Irish 70.00 Anglo Irish 60.00
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Pharmaceuticals

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Printing & Paper

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Property

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Support Services

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Water

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Transport

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Support Services

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Water

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

Transport

Stock	Price	Change
120		
110		
100		
90		
80		
70		
60		
50		
40		
30		
20		
10		

297	Signal Group	33 1/2	+1 1/2	06	3782	155	54	Ale Europe	140 1/2	-1	28	150	1532
303	Smith WH	369 1/2	+4 5/8	35	154	407	544		565 1/2	+10 1/2	27	249	1701
910	Sotabays	172 1/2	-1	25	-	783	583	B Airways	842 1/2	3	28	163	1591
84	Stonewall	23 1/2	+1	44	303	425	12 1/2	Calway Int	17 1/2	-	-	494	4222
197	Stylis	107 1/2	-	50	148	431	14 1/2	Carroll Trans	55 1/2	-	-	153	4238
122	T & B Stores	107 1/2	+1	54	128	453	12 1/2	Chatham H	95 1/2	-	51	60	2657
100	Thom	164	-1	58	123	423							

[illegible]

Dog day evening

SEDGEFIELD

125 COLN

10/1/71

100

(continued)

7-10-68

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sport

Bluff should get them off the bit

Racing
RICHARD EDMONDSON

A huge, grey horse will be in evidence at Haydock this afternoon and the only thing stronger than his massively muscular form will be the bit and the bit that forms the mechanism of his steering equipment.

Coastal Bluff would surely have won the Nunthorpe Stakes outright at York last month, had it not been for the malfunction in his bit which meant that Kevin Darley was forced to hang on to his mount's mane and effect an impression of a brave bearing down on the circled sanctuary of a wagon train.

The five-year-old's accomplishments will be checked so thoroughly today that they will surely not let him down again. The pertinent question will be whether he is good enough to hold off a refreshed set of new rivals in the Group One Haydock Park Sprint Cup. He beat Avert on the Knavesmire after a steering wheel and he should do so again, but now there are other foes.

Royal Applause was meant to be the champion sprinter earlier in the season until he was

embarrassed in the July Cup, and since then there has been the trumpeting of Danetime, the victor in the Stewards' Cup. The latter travels to Newton-Willows with an impressive reputation, but as a handicapper winner he can hardly be led to the same trough as Green Desert, Ajdal, Daxstar and Sheikh Al-Badon, all of whom have won this race inside the last 12 years.

In truth, nothing in today's field seems worthy of elevation

to that standard, though the suspicion remains that COASTAL BLUFF (nap 2.50) is still spreading strength throughout his juggernaut frame. As he also achieves his venomous best like male wasps at this time of the year he must be the selection.

Epsom, too, has been brought forward to avoid the mourning of Saturday and gives us the September Stakes as its main dish. One of the contestants here is Dushyantor (3.40), a nearby horse of last season

considered worthy of another campaign. This decision looked like being as deeply rash as an attack of shingles until the colt resurrected his reputation in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury last month. Another hard-fought success seems likely.

The opening contest bears the words "hot water" in the sponsor's elongated title, which is exactly where punters are likely to end if they speculate extravagantly. When the change does come out of the pocket it should be proffered in support of the course and distance winner, Dance So Suite (2.05). Another who has proved himself over this devilish terrain is Polar Prince (2.35), who captured the Dromedary Stakes over today's distance at the Derby meeting.

Finally, funds should be preserved for Luca Cumani's Frequent (next best 3.05), who is sure to have come on for his pipe-opener in a white-hot handicap at York last month. The time for practice is over.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Coastal Bluff (Haydock 2.50)
NB: Frequent (Epsom 3.05)

Dog day evening

There is no horse racing in the country tomorrow but Britain is still going to the dogs, writes Ian Davies.

The British Greyhound Racing Board yesterday stressed that tomorrow night's meetings will go ahead. All horse racing and the afternoon greyhound meetings scheduled for tomorrow have been called off in respect for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. However, Geoffrey Thomas, the BGRB chief executive, said: "Greyhound racing should offer those wishing to go out on Saturday night the opportunity to do so."

Britain's challenge for Sunday's Moylagre Stud Stakes in Ireland was reduced to just Bahr yesterday when Craze Mental was ruled out of the Group One race. Derek Haydn Jones, her trainer, pulled his filly out because she has not fully recovered from the injury that denied her a run in the Lowther Stakes.

A maximum of nine will contest Sunday's mile Group One Prix du Moulin de Longchamp after the defection of Deadly Dudley and Titus Livius.

Mick Fitzgerald was stood down for seven days yesterday after being knocked unconscious at Fontwell.

HYPERION'S STYLISH

EPSON

2.05 MALE-ANA-MOD, off the course since finishing eight lengths seventh to Oray over an inadequate 1m 2f yesterday at Sandown in June. He potentially well-handicapped.

2.35 POLAR PRINCE, proven over this tricky course, the best to do to when 7½ lengths third to the subsequently disqualified Cape Cross in the Group Two Celebration Mile at Goodwood last time.

3.05 SANDMOOR CHAMBERLAY, a slightly disappointing head second to Istof over 1m 2f at Ripon last time, has a chance on his previous 1½ lengths second to Amyes in a valuable 1m 2f 85yds rated handicap at York.

3.40 DUSHYANTOR, who bounced back to form with a neck victory over Panama City in the 1m 5f 50yds Group Two Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury, looks a cut above today's rivals.

2.50 DANETIME, who landed a big ante post gambler in the Stewards' Cup handicap over 6f at Goodwood, can successfully step up in class.

FIRST SHOW

Haydock — 2.50

Place	1	2	3	4
1	Coastal Bluff (nap)	2.3	2.4	2.5
2	Frequent	3.1	3.2	3.3
3	Oray	4.1	4.2	4.3
4	Oray	5.1	5.2	5.3
5	Oray	6.1	6.2	6.3
6	Oray	7.1	7.2	7.3
7	Oray	8.1	8.2	8.3
8	Oray	9.1	9.2	9.3
9	Oray	10.1	10.2	10.3
10	Oray	11.1	11.2	11.3
11	Oray	12.1	12.2	12.3
12	Oray	13.1	13.2	13.3
13	Oray	14.1	14.2	14.3
14	Oray	15.1	15.2	15.3
15	Oray	16.1	16.2	16.3
16	Oray	17.1	17.2	17.3
17	Oray	18.1	18.2	18.3
18	Oray	19.1	19.2	19.3
19	Oray	20.1	20.2	20.3
20	Oray	21.1	21.2	21.3
21	Oray	22.1	22.2	22.3
22	Oray	23.1	23.2	23.3
23	Oray	24.1	24.2	24.3
24	Oray	25.1	25.2	25.3
25	Oray	26.1	26.2	26.3
26	Oray	27.1	27.2	27.3
27	Oray	28.1	28.2	28.3
28	Oray	29.1	29.2	29.3
29	Oray	30.1	30.2	30.3
30	Oray	31.1	31.2	31.3
31	Oray	32.1	32.2	32.3
32	Oray	33.1	33.2	33.3
33	Oray	34.1	34.2	34.3
34	Oray	35.1	35.2	35.3
35	Oray	36.1	36.2	36.3
36	Oray	37.1	37.2	37.3
37	Oray	38.1	38.2	38.3
38	Oray	39.1	39.2	39.3
39	Oray	40.1	40.2	40.3
40	Oray	41.1	41.2	41.3
41	Oray	42.1	42.2	42.3
42	Oray	43.1	43.2	43.3
43	Oray	44.1	44.2	44.3
44	Oray	45.1	45.2	45.3
45	Oray	46.1	46.2	46.3
46	Oray	47.1	47.2	47.3
47	Oray	48.1	48.2	48.3
48	Oray	49.1	49.2	49.3
49	Oray	50.1	50.2	50.3
50	Oray	51.1	51.2	51.3
51	Oray	52.1	52.2	52.3
52	Oray	53.1	53.2	53.3
53	Oray	54.1	54.2	54.3
54	Oray	55.1	55.2	55.3
55	Oray	56.1	56.2	56.3
56	Oray	57.1	57.2	57.3
57	Oray	58.1	58.2	58.3
58	Oray	59.1	59.2	59.3
59	Oray	60.1	60.2	60.3
60	Oray	61.1	61.2	61.3
61	Oray	62.1	62.2	62.3
62	Oray	63.1	63.2	63.3
63	Oray	64.1	64.2	64.3
64	Oray	65.1	65.2	65.3
65	Oray	66.1	66.2	66.3
66	Oray	67.1	67.2	67.3
67	Oray	68.1	68.2	68.3
68	Oray	69.1	69.2	69.3
69	Oray	70.1	70.2	70.3
70	Oray	71.1	71.2	71.3
71	Oray	72.1	72.2	72.3
72	Oray	73.1	73.2	73.3
73	Oray	74.1	74.2	74.3
74	Oray	75.1	75.2	75.3
75	Oray	76.1	76.2	76.3
76	Oray	77.1	77.2	77.3
77	Oray	78.1	78.2	78.3
78	Oray	79.1	79.2	79.3
79	Oray	80.1	80.2	80.3
80	Oray	81.1	81.2	81.3
81	Oray	82.1	82.2	82.3
82	Oray	83.1	83.2	83.3
83	Oray	84.1	84.2	84.3
84	Oray	85.1	85.2	85.3
85	Oray	86.1	86.2	86.3
86	Oray	87.1	87.2	87.3
87	Oray	88.1	88.2	88.3
88	Oray	89.1	89.2	89.3
89	Oray	90.1	90.2	90.3
90	Oray	91.1	91.2	91.3
91	Oray	92.1	92.2	92.3
92	Oray	93.1	93.2	93.3
93	Oray	94.1	94.2	94.3
94	Oray	95.1	95.2	95.3
95	Oray	96.1	96.2	96.3
96	Oray	97.1	97.2	97.3
97	Oray	98.1	98.2	98.3
98	Oray	99.1	99.2	99.3
99	Oray	100.1	100.2	100.3
100	Oray	101.1	101.2	101.3
101	Oray	102.1	102.2	102.3
102	Oray	103.1	103.2	103.3
103	Oray	104.1	104.2	104.3
104	Oray	105.1	105.2	105.3
105	Oray	106.1	106.2	106.3
106	Oray	107.1	107.2	107.3
107	Oray	108.1	108.2	108.3
108	Oray	109.1	109.2	109.3
109	Oray	110.1	110.2	110.3
110	Oray	111.1	111.2	111.3
111	Oray	112.1	112.2	112.3
112	Oray	113.1	113.2	113.3
113	Oray	114.1	114.2	114.3
114	Oray	115.1	115.2	115.3
115	Oray	116.1	116.2	116.3
116	Oray	117.1	117.2	117.3
117	Oray	118.1	118.2	118.3
118	Oray	119.1	119.2	119.3
119	Oray	120.1	120.2	120.3
120	Oray	121.1	121.2	121.3
121	Oray	122.1	122.2	122.3
122	Oray	123.1	123.2	123.3
123	Oray	124.1	124.2	124.3
124	Oray	125.1	125.2	125.3
125	Oray	126.1	126.2	126.3
126	Oray	127.1	127.2	127.3
127	Oray	128.1	128.2	128.3
128	Oray	129.1	129.2	129.3
129	Oray	130.1	130.2	130.3
130	Oray	131.1	131.2	131.3
131	Oray	132.1	132.2	132.3
132	Oray	133.1	133.2	133.3
133	Oray	134.1	134.2	134.3
134	Oray	135.1	135.2	135.3
135	Oray	136.1	136.2	136.3
136	Oray	137.1	137.2	137.3
137	Oray	138.1	138.2	138.3
138	Oray	139.1	139.2	139.3
139	Oray	140.1	140.2	140.3
140	Oray	141.1	141.2	141.3
141	Oray	142.1	142.2	142.3
142	Oray	143.1	143.2	143.3
143	Oray	144.1	144.2	144.3
144	Oray	145.1	145.2	145.3
145	Oray	146.1	146.2	146.3
146	Oray	147.1	147.2	147.3
147	Oray	148.1	148.2	148.3
148	Oray	149.1	149.2	149.3
149	Oray	150.1	150.2	150.3
150	Oray	151.1	151.2	151.3
151	Oray	152.1	152.2	152.3
152	Oray	153.1	153.2	153.3
153	Oray	154.1	154.2	154.3
154	Oray	155.1	155.2	155.3
155	Oray	156.1	156.2	156.3
156	Oray	157.1	157.2	157.3
157	Oray	158.1	158.2	158.3
158	Oray	159.1	159.2	159.3
159	Oray	160.1	160.2	160.3
160	Oray	161.1	161.2	161.3
161	Oray	162.1	162.2	162.3
162	Oray	163.1	163.2	163.3
163	Oray	164.1	164.2	164.3
164	Oray	165.1	165.2	165.3
165	Oray	166.1	166.2	166.3
166	Oray	167.1	167.2	167.3
167	Oray	168.1	168.2	168.3
168	Oray	169.1	169.2	169.3
169	Oray	170.1	170.2	170.3
170	Oray	171.1	171.2	171.3
171	Oray	172.1	172.2	172.3
172	Oray	173.1	173.2	173.3
173	Oray	174.1	174.2	174.3
174	Oray	175.1	175.2	175.3
175	Oray	176.1	176.2	176.3
176	Oray	177.1	177.2	177.3
177	Oray	178.1	178.2	178.3
178	Oray	179.1	179.2	179.3
179	Oray	180.1	180.2	180.3
180	Oray	181.1	181.2	181.3
181	Oray	182.1	182.2	182.3
182	Oray	183.1	183.2	183.3
183	Oray	184.1	184.2	184.3
184	Oray	185.1	185.2	185.3
185	Oray	186.1	186.2	186.3
186	Oray	187.1	187.2	187.3
187	Oray	188.1	188.2	188.3
188	Oray	189.1	189.2	189.3
189	Oray	190.1	190.2	190.3
190				

RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP: Good day for Kent at Gloucestershire's expense while main rivals are frustrated

Lawrence makes a great mistake

DAVID ILEWELLYN

reports from Canterbury
Kent 305 and 432-4 dec
Gloucestershire 256 and 59-4

The dropped catch that brought Syd Lawrence to his knees yesterday morning could well turn out to be symbolic of Gloucestershire's condition (and their title hopes) later today after Kent's batsmen carved up their rivals' attack at will. They then handed the reins over to their bowlers who had whipped out

four of the West Country batsmen by the close of another absorbing day's cricket. Syd Lawrence was but a bulwark of his former ferocious self on this enormous ground. The beneficiary of Lawrence's miss off a low, hard and eminently catchable drive to mid-off was Trevor Ward. The Kent man had just half a dozen runs to his name at that point. That was just the beginning of the torture for Lawrence. Not only was he forced to watch Ward piling up runs for much of the day, but also when the big

man returned in mid-afternoon he was dismissed for three thumping boundaries as he went for 35 more runs in just three overs. And by the time Kent captain Steve Marsh declared some 30 minutes after tea Ward strolled off unbeaten on 161.

In the intervening period he had made bowling look impossible. It was his first Championship hundred since May 1996 (coincidentally yesterday's magnificent innings equalled his last one) and it could not have been more timely. His four and a half-hour occupation of the crease was studied with piercing drives and powerful pulls.

He and Alan Wells broke the back of the Gloucestershire challenge with a monumental third-wicket stand of 193 in 43 punishing overs. Wells was in equally commanding form with the bat and it was unfortunate that he fell just half a dozen runs away from a deserved century when he misused a pull to mid-wicket. He did have the consolation of passing 1,000 runs for the season when he reached 58 and of course it was his second fifty of the match.

Ward carried on regardless, untroubled. By the end he had 21 fours to his name and his solitary six came in the last over of his innings. Perhaps the most telling period came when Ward was joined by Matthew Walker, who until yesterday had been sadly lacking form.

It took the diminutive left-hander just 37 balls to thrash himself back into kick. He blasted his way to 51 - his first fifty of the summer - in the process helping to put on 76 in 40 minutes either side of tea with Ward.

His departure provided one of two bright spots in an otherwise dismal day for Lawrence. Walker's lofted shot was well taken by the former England fast bowler at mid-off. And later, when his team-mates were losing their heads and their wickets first to Dean Headley and then to Paul Strang, Lawrence came out in a night-watchman role and survived one chance (to Headley at slip off Strang) and a chorus of appeals for other catches at the wicket in the 11 nerve-racking balls he had to face, with up to eight men around the bat. He will have to face plenty more today if Gloucestershire are to stare off defeat.



Glamorgan celebrate taking the wicket of Alistair Brown, who was run out after a drive from Surrey team-mate Graham Thorpe was deflected on to the stumps at the bowler's end

Glamorgan victory charge defied by Thorpe

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from The Oval
Surrey 204 and 324-6
Glamorgan 438

With a whole day of late summer sunshine to back it, Surrey suddenly awoke to the fact that this is an important game of cricket and they played accordingly. That said, it is probably far too late for any table-turning heroics and, but for a marvellous century from Graham Thorpe, Glamorgan would probably now be sailing back down the M4, 24 crucial points to the better.

As it is, they must wait until tomorrow to know their fate. With the weather set fair, their main priority is to take the four remaining Surrey wickets as quickly as possible, before the

target, currently at 90, takes on awkward proportions upon this dusting pitch.

The visitors began the morning's play by vigorously adding 75 to their overnight score, mainly through the long handle of Darren Thomas, who finished unbeaten on 75. Although Thomas, who is 22, also bowls swiftly but erratically, he is probably worth a place on the tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka. Certainly his spirited cricket, and he later bowled Ben Hollis with a beauty that cut back sharply off the pitch.

With the prompt removal of Surrey's top three, Glamorgan's first-innings lead of 234 looked more than enough to wrap up victory by an innings. The prognosis did not improve when Alistair Brown was run out by Dean Coster, as the left-

arm spinner diverted Thorpe's straight drive on to the stumps.

It was an unlucky end to what was a wonderfully hard-hitting day for Surrey, which included a mighty six as well as three fours in consecutive balls off Croft.

At that point Surrey decided to counter-attack further, with Thorpe and the Hollises providing by far the best strokeplay of the match. Adding 120 with Adam, until he became a victim of Waqar's infamous inswinging yorker, and a quickfire 49 with Ben, Surrey overhauled the deficit in the 59th over.

Thorpe, batting with both application and panache, could not be tethered by Glamorgan's bowlers and he duly notched up his second Championship century of the season, an underachievement made all the more

glaring by it being his second in successive matches.

It has been a strange season for Thorpe. On the slow, green pitches that have dictated terms for most of this summer, he has struggled more than most. It was only during the fifth Test at Trent Bridge, on the truest pitch of the series, that we saw the fluent Thorpe of old.

With his confidence clearly restored, he scored the only half-century here during the last Test, a gritty, cussed innings more than matched against Glamorgan's useful attack. His only mistake, an edged drive off Croft, was not capitalised upon by Tony Cottee at slip and he remained unbeaten on 140 at the close - a thorny reminder to Glamorgan that chasing Championships is never easy for those of an impatient disposition.

Colin Montgomerie, the defending champion, shot 65 to go into joint third place with Ulster's Ronan Rafferty and Spain's Fernando Riera, while Nick Faldo is only a stroke further back.

Of the other Ryder Cup players, Darren Clarke recorded a 67, Ignacio Garrido 71 and Costantino Rocca and Thomas Bjorn over par 72s - the same as the Ryder captain Seve Ballesteros, who now faces the danger of missing his 13th half-way cut in 15 starts this season. Casera, who puts one-handed, will almost certainly miss the cut as well tonight but, by recording a score which equals his age, he has achieved something which many players may never do.

Yorkshire are short of ideas

JON CULLEY

reports from Headingley
Yorkshire 501-7 dec
Worcestershire 313-6

Should Yorkshire win here, as they must to retain a chance of securing their first County Championship since 1968, it will have been a victory earned through hard graft after Worcestershire stoutly repelled the home side's pursuit of cheap wickets yesterday.

Having reached 414 for 6 by the close of a second day severely curtailed by rain, Yorkshire batted until they had 501 on the board for the loss of one further wicket, clearly hoping for a psychological edge sufficient to induce capitulation at the double by their opponents.

However, they reckoned without a succession of batsmen with no intention of succumbing meekly to a youthful Yorkshire seam attack. Worcestershire resume today needing 33 to avoid the follow-on and Force David Byas to design a new game plan.

Plan A began well enough when Paul Hutchinson, the 20-year-old left-arm bowler who has burst from second XI obscurity with a run of 19 wickets in three matches, had Tom Moody brilliantly caught behind for seven - a 500th catch in first-class cricket for Richard Blakey - but thereafter wickets fell with frustrating infrequency.

Gavin Hamilton, who has not enjoyed as good a season as was

probably hoped of him, rose to the occasion to bowl as sharply as local observers could recall and accounted for Graeme Hick and Reuben Spring in the space of seven balls. His later spell was poor by comparison and the absence of Darren Gough and Peter Harley was noticeable. By the end, Yorkshire looked short of ideas. That Hutchinson should have bowled only nine overs in the day was a mystery.

Worcestershire's interest is more than academic. They began in fifth place, just five points behind Yorkshire, and while their title prospects were probably never better than theoretical, they have place-money as an incentive. Moody and Spring apart, all of their batsmen made a significant contribution and some might have gone further on a placid pitch.

Philip Weston was unlucky to be run out when Vaughan scored a direct hit from cover. Hick threw his wicket away with a loose chip to mid-wicket and Gavin Haynes, who had been dropped by Byas at second slip on two, was so annoyed by an apparent misjudgment of his feet placement he took a bit of a divot of outfield turf with an angry swish of the bat.

When, in the morning, Craig White was despatching Richard Illingworth's left-arm spin to all parts - one over yielded 4, 6, 4, 6, 4, 1 - in his undefeated 172, Yorkshire might have had lofty visions. By the evening, their case was looking much less convincing.

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Trescothick holds up Middlesex challenge

Round-up

Somerset's Marcus Trescothick held up a determined Middlesex quest to keep their Championship hopes alive at Taunton yesterday.

The former England Under-19 captain put a disappointing season behind him to hit 65 as

Middlesex began on 80 for 3. The South African timed his attacking strokes in glorious fashion and some solid defence.

After an early examination by Caddick and Graham Rose, Kallis took command, hitting 148 in his century made off 158 deliveries. Two balls later he deflected Caddick to Piran Holloway at slip, departing for 100.

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Race for the pennant
Lawrence drops a dolly as Kent pile on the runs, page 27

sport

Sally's swan-song
Gunnell prepares for new hurdles, page 26

Teacher tries to keep Rusedski focused on semi-final

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from New York

Tomorrow, when British sport is cancelled on the occasion of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, Greg Rusedski will mark his 24th birthday by attempting to become the first Briton since Fred Perry to win a place in the men's singles final at the US Open.

Rusedski's coach, the American Brian Teacher, will endeavour to dissuade the British No 1 from watching television coverage of the funeral before playing his semi-final against Sweden's Jonas Björkman.

Teacher will emphasise to Rusedski that the best gesture he can make on a day of mourning is to give the best performance of his career.

"I don't belong to your country," the 42-year-old from Los

Angeles said yesterday, "but I feel horrible about what happened. And I know Greg feels horrible. The only thing I would be concerned about is the emotions. I don't want him to be down going on to the court."

"I don't think it would be good for him to have the television on for hours in the morning. I'll have a talk with Greg and say to him: 'What's going to be served by you focusing on it? Give a moment's silence out of respect, then move on.'"

"I think I'll probably watch [the funeral], just out of respect," the Canadian-born Rusedski said after defeating Richard Krajicek, the former Wimbledon champion, in the quarter-finals. "I mean, it's a sad occasion. She was a great humanitarian who did a lot of great things for the world."

Rusedski is determined to keep events in perspective. "Tennis is not even important

compared to that tragedy," he said. "Tennis is so secondary, it's not really relevant."

Whatever the outcome of tomorrow's match, he intends to delay any birthday celebrations until next week.

Teacher, who has helped the big-serving Rusedski to broaden his game in the 16 months they have worked together, appreciates the strength of the player's attachment to his adoptive country. "Greg feels a part of Britain, he really, really does," he said.

"He's made his home in Britain, and that's where he feels most comfortable. He's extremely committed. You just need to hear the comments which come out of his mouth when he compares the two countries and ribs me about the bad things over here in America."

Teacher conceded, however, that Rusedski has tended to be overshadowed since the



Greg Rusedski celebrates victory over Richard Krajicek

emergence of Oxford's Tim Henman. "Greg's never going to capture the hearts of the people like the Henman thing," he said, "but I think he's been accepted and I think he's extremely well liked over there."

"It's a rivalry, but a friendly rivalry. It's not a jealousy thing. He

thinks 'If I could work a little bit harder, I could get what Tim is getting'. He sees Tim do well and he would like to have the same variety [of shots] as Tim."

How much better does he think Rusedski's game can get? "It's hard to say. He's got a chance to win the US Open,

which is incredible. Here he is in the semi-finals and you've got to say there's nobody in there he can't beat if he plays his best tennis. I don't see him being No 1 in the world, but if he keeps going, you never know."

Teacher smiled when asked if he imagined giving such an interview when he first linked up with Rusedski before a clay-court tournament in St Pölten, Austria, last year.

"I really didn't," he said. "I thought he could make real progress possibly in two or three years, if things went well. But then you see a player blossoming in front of you. It's almost like a domino effect."

Teacher, who once coached Andre Agassi for about three weeks - "Sometimes these things are about timing" - is respected by many former professionals including John McEnroe, who is working as a television commentator here.

"McEnroe said something the other day about Greg's forehand, a little technical detail about the way he approaches it," Teacher said. "It was stuff I've been telling Greg, and it's nice when McEnroe comes up and tells him the same thing."

Teacher was recommended to Rusedski by Agassi's coach, Brad Gilbert. "At the time we started working, Greg was struggling with his returns of serve, not capitalising enough with his volleys and playing too many loose points. In practice he was too lackadaisical in what he was trying to achieve."

Rusedski acknowledges the difference Teacher has made. "He's helped me with my return of serve, my ground shots, my mental approach," he said. "And I'm getting some of his relaxed characteristics. I still can't do all those yoga positions he does, but I'm trying."

Teacher, however, is not sure how much longer he intends to spend on the tour. "I don't like travelling as much," he said. "Next year I'm going to be doing it. If you ask me if I'll be doing it the year after, I wouldn't be able to tell you."

Aside from the technicalities of the sport, Teacher has had personal experience of dealing with unwelcome distractions. His wife, Kathy May, telephoned him on the eve of the 1980 Australian Open to tell him their marriage was over. He almost pulled out of the tournament and went home. Instead he stayed, and won the title. Björkman advanced to meet Rusedski by defeating Petr Korda, who retired, complaining of a virus, with the Swede leading 7-6, 6-2, 1-0. Korda, it will be remembered, eliminated Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in the fourth round.

Results, Digest, page 29

Faldo and Parnevik kept in shadows

Golf

ANDY FARRELL
reports from Crans-sur-Sierre

On another day of controversial statements and seeming contradictions, the simplest task was undertaken by Seve Ballesteros, the European Ryder Cup captain, when he named Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik as his wild cards.

No surprise there, then. Especially not to Faldo. Ballesteros, who had vowed to keep everything secret until the last minute, telephoned him almost two weeks ago, although then he did not know that Faldo had said to "call me collect". Faldo kept up the pretence on Seve's suggestion, as did Jose Maria Olazabal, who was given Miguel Angel Martin's automatic place but had been already told he would be in whether he qualified or not. "It's interesting, no," Ballesteros smiled.

If the little game of "I know nothing" was innocent enough, that involving the injured Martin is not. Three letters appealing against the exclusion have been sent to the Ryder Cup Committee on behalf of the Spaniard by Jose Nuñez, the Andalusian minister for sport. Manuel Ballesteros, Seve's brother, in his capacity as the president of the Spanish Pro-

fessional Golfers' Association, and by Martin's lawyer.

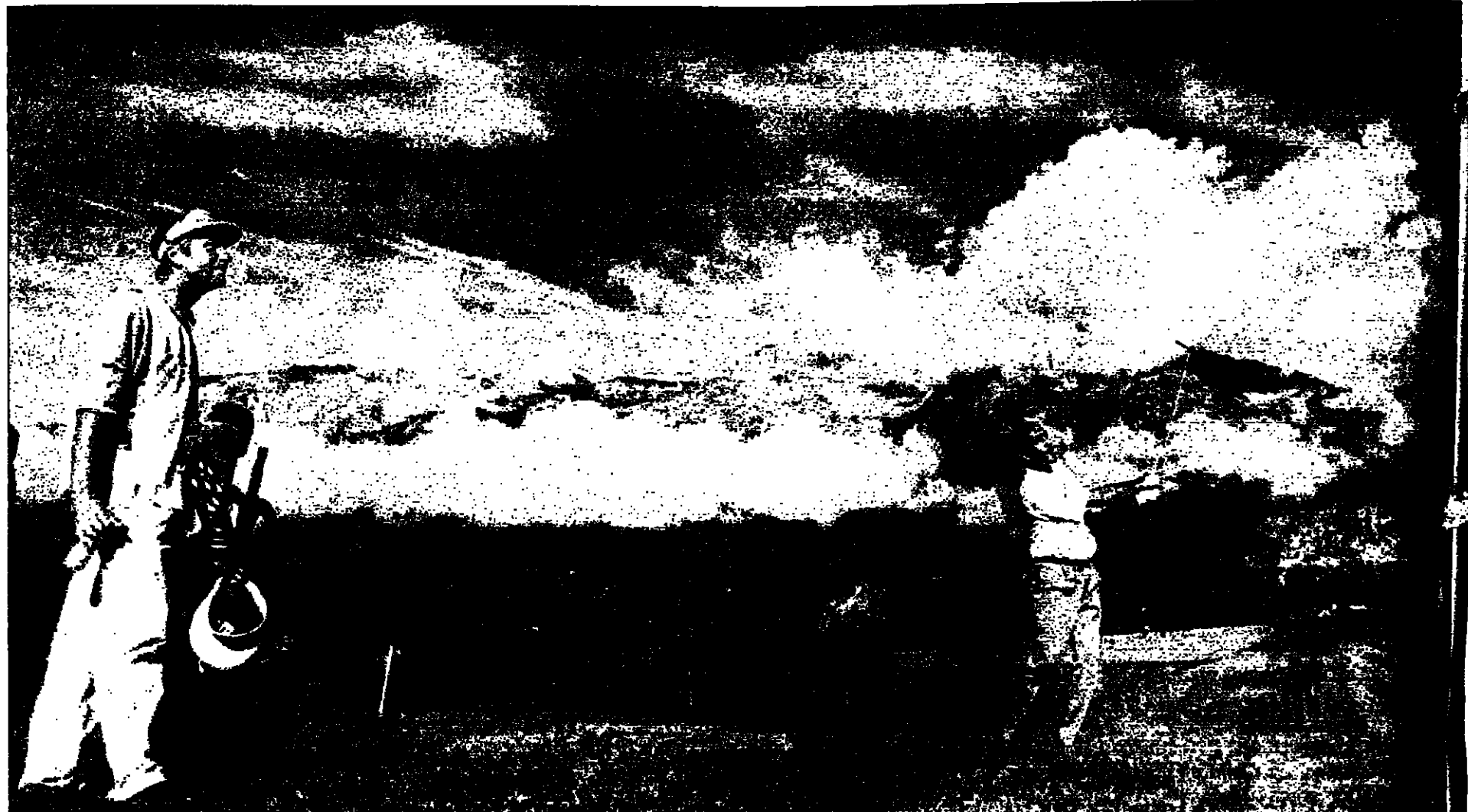
But as far as Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, is concerned: "Our decision is now taken. The Ryder Cup Committee faced an unprecedented situation. It is our obligation to give the captain 12 fit players at the time of the announcement of the team."

Schofield believes that an injunction taken out by Martin would be unlikely to succeed, although he may claim for compensation for lost bonuses that may be part of his sponsorship agreements.

Ballesteros revealed that in a telephone conversation on Sunday, Martin told him: "If I was one of your picks, I would tell you that I was not fit to play. But because I made the top 10, I want to play." The call is believed to have been witnessed by Schofield. Sandy Jones of the PGA, Richard Hills, director of the Ryder Cup, and Miguel Angel Jimenez, Seve's vice-captain.

Ballesteros added: "Miguel is the sort of person, some people say, he has a square head. I feel very sorry for him. I was the one who asked the committee for more time for him."

Schofield confirmed Ballesteros had not been directly involved in the decision to axe Martin, although he had con-



Under a cloud: Seve Ballesteros' round at Crans-sur-Sierre yesterday was overshadowed by the row about Miguel Martin's exclusion from the Ryder Cup team Photograph: Alamy

veyed the views of the majority of the team that they could not see how Martin could be fit in time. Earlier in the day, in an extraordinary prelude to the official press conference, Ballesteros was clearly seething.

"Martin is trying to screw everyone," he said. "He is like a machine-gun, shooting every way. He is a kamikaze going all the way for the ship. He has been badly advised. I thought he had more intelligence. He is trying to be a hero for the week, a hero for himself."

Ballesteros was scornful of any suggestion of Martin getting back on the team. "He was not welcome before," he said, a statement Martin's lawyer may

be interested in. "Do you think he will be welcome now? We would be out of our mind to change the decision."

As for legal action by the diminutive Spaniard preventing the Ryder Cup going ahead, Ballesteros positively spat: "Miguel Martin stop the Ryder Cup? That little man stop the Ryder Cup? Lawyers can do only so much."

Later, and calmer, Ballesteros explained his wild-card selections. "Parnevik has played fantastic on the US Tour," he said. "He knows all the American players and won't be intimidated. Faldo has a tremendous record in the Ryder Cup. If I had to bet my life playing the last hole

and trust someone, Nick Faldo would be my choice."

"That's very nice, but I hope he doesn't do it," Faldo, who will be playing for a record 11th time, said. "What was I meant to say?" he asked of the subterfuge. "For a while I didn't know, Seve really was keeping everything close to his chest. I'm really looking forward to it. It is something to really focus on for the next two weeks. I'll be prepared as much as I can."

Parnevik, who was told on Tuesday after Martin was withdrawn, was hoping to be able to wear his trademark upturned cap. The Swede, who will be making his debut, added: "It is a big honour for Seve to tell you

you are needed on the team. I'm thrilled and relieved at the same time. Even if you are not trying to think about it, it is at the back of your mind."

By fair means or foul, Europe now has a team to go to Valderrama in three weeks and it is the best this continent could put out. Ballesteros compared it to the team that won for the first time on American soil at Muirfield Village in 1987.

"I thought it would take a long time to have a team as good as that, but I am glad I was wrong," he said. "I'm not going to Valderrama to defend or retain the Ryder Cup. I am very confident we are going to win."

Orr sets the pace, page 27

Sheringham pulls out with cracked ribs

Football

GLENN MOORE

The tangled fates of Teddy Sheringham and Paul Scholes were given another twist yesterday when Sheringham withdrew from the England squad to play Moldova next Wednesday.

Scholes, whose hopes of assuming Eric Cantona's mantle at Old Trafford were dented by Sheringham's £3.5m summer arrival, now looks like taking the older man's place in the World qualifier at Wembley.

Sheringham withdrew after a bone scan revealed him to have two broken ribs. He has been carrying the injury since Manchester United's match at Leicester 13 days ago, but had assumed he was just suffering from bruised ribs. He then played against Everton - when he scored his first goal for United - and Coventry. He will now miss United's opening Champions' League game against Kosice, in Slovakia, on 27 September.

While the England coach is disappointed at losing Sheringham from Wednesday's match, he is more concerned at the prospect of being without him in Rome on 11 October. "He has shown a lot of character to keep playing, but he will now be out for two to three

weeks," Hoddle said. "Then he will need to get match fit again, so he must be a doubt for Italy. People talk about the SAS (Shearer and Sheringham), now we could lose both of them. However, I have five other forwards in this squad."

One of them is Emile Heskey, who will now stay with the squad instead of dropping down to the Under-21 team. Scholes, though, is the most likely replacement. He impressed after making his debut last summer, playing especially well against Italy in Le Tournoi de France when he linked well with Ian Wright.

"That was an advantage of going to Le Tournoi," Hoddle said. "I was able to groom a couple of players and Scholes was one of them. He has ability and temperament, is very astute on the ball, has good feet and vision. He makes good runs beyond the ball and has an astute football brain."

"I wanted to bring him in earlier but he was not playing enough for United. Once I did call him in I saw enough on his first day of training to suggest he has immense talent."

"One of the great things about him is his versatility. I learned last summer that come the World Cup the lucky coaches will be the ones who have four players who can play in

three different positions. Scholes is one of those, as is David Beckham and Rob Lee."

Lee agreed. "I think being versatile keeps you in the squad," said the Newcastle captain, who has played well for Terry Venables for Euro 96.

"Venables picked from about 13 or 14 players, the rest of us were squad players," Lee said. "It does help the spirit when everyone knows that if they are in form with their club and doing well at training they have a chance of playing. The mood here is as good as it would be at a club."

Lee admitted, though, that England's preparations had been affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "You can't get away from it. The players talk about it and a lot of us watch it on TV in our rooms," he said. "It has been like one of your family dying. I don't think a lot of people realised how much it would affect them. The whole country is grieving."

Referring to the postponement of Newcastle's match at Liverpool last Sunday, he added: "None of the players wanted to the game to go ahead. It would have been impossible to play then or on the day of the funeral."

Scottish FA chief under fire, page 26

RYDER CUP TEAMS

Europe

Colin Montgomerie; Darren Clarke; Bernhard Langer; Ian Woosnam; Per-Ulrik Johansson; Lee Westwood; Ignacio Garrido; Thomas Bjorn; Costantino Rocca; Jose Maria Olazabal.
Wild cards: Nick Faldo; Jesper Parnevik.
Captain: Severiano Ballesteros.

United States

Tiger Woods; Justin Leonard; Lehman; Davis Love; Jim Furyk; Phil Mickelson; Jeff Maggert; Mark O'Meara; Scott Hoch; Fred Couples; Jose Maria Olazabal.
Wild cards: Lee Janzen; Fred Couples.
Captain: Tom Kite.

Drunk during the Waughs.

BREWED BY THE CHARLES WEAVER BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 2396, Friday 5 September 1997 By Sparius

Thursday's solution

ACROSS

- Ban applied to Detective Inspector with yellowish complexion (8)
- Accumulate eight, by the sound of it? (6)
- Landlord gave him the sack on numerous occasions (8)
- Legislator, one drafted in by Yorkshire Water to act as arbiter (6)
- Prohibiting certain form of power generation, rule France breaks where energy's involved (7-4)
- Police about to impound books and ritual carving (3)
- Like the things we learn from relations? (9)
- That is to say, food store's beside church with very Italian exterior (9)
- Stop right at the end of the avenue (5)
- Means of furnishing support for courses? (6-5)
- Move from present environment would make Pru too upset (6)
- Underworld money linked with Court, it's clear (8)
- Pet food displayed in windows? (6)
- Worried intensely about ring being a different design (8)

DOWN

- Official invited, unexpectedly, to escort Earl going to Falkland Islands (10)
- Lawyer with no alternative to exercising due care (10)
- In basketball it helps to be supple (5)
- Emphasis attached to style of footwear, in a manner of speaking (6,6)
- Writer joining committee is given help over summaries of larger works (9)
- First of infantry divisions supporting artillery attack (4)
- English Archdeacon is smooth (4)
- Being independent, you just pay for a seat? (4-8)
- Reinforcements for Caribbean ensembles? (5,5)
- Abused, as patients are, one way and another (3-7)
- Unskilful admiral to set out? (9)
- Legendary giant, one omitted by artist (5)
- Shell east coast port (4)
- Cliff rescue's first one coastguard's taken care of (4)